

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

China

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PRC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GENERAL

Foreign Ministry Holds Weekly Press Briefing	A 1
Cambodia; U.S. 'Collaboration'	A 1
Taiwan, Macao Issues	A 1

UNITED STATES

RENMIN RIBAO on Reagan's 1986 Budget Plan [5 Feb]	B 1
---	-----

SOVIET UNION

Economic, Military Impact of Baikal-Amur Railway [SHIJIE ZHISHI 16 Jan]	C 1
--	-----

NORTHEAST ASIA

Commentary Views U.S.-South Korean Joint Exercise [RENMIN RIBAO 6 Feb]	D 1
WPK Issues Messages on Founding Anniversaries [RENMIN RIBAO 2 Feb]	D 2
Rong Yiren, Nakasone Discuss Business Dealings	D 3
Computer Cooperation Contract Signed With Japan	D 3

PRC NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Radio Broadcasts Lecture on Rural Economic Reform	K 1
Xi Zhongxun, Others Meet Young Business Leaders	K 3
Xi Zhongxun, Fang Yi Meet Medical Personnel	K 4
Ulanhu Attends Pictorial Founding Anniversary	K 4
Chen Pixian on Grassroots Political Power	K 5
CPPCC Members To Make Inspection Tours in March	K 5
Chen Yun's Account of Red Army's Westward March [HONGQI No 1, 1 Jan]	K 6
RENMIN RIBAO Short Commentary on TV Set Swindle [4 Feb]	K 44

PRC REGIONAL AFFAIRS

EAST REGION

Huang Huang Attends Anhui Rural Work Meeting	O 1
Addresses Closing Meeting	O 2
Fujian Economic Commission on Rural Reform	O 3
Shanghai Meeting Discusses Urban Economic Reform	O 4

CENTRAL-SOUTH REGION

Shenzhen Customs Officers Investigate Smuggling [CHINA DAILY 5 Feb]	P 1
Henan CPC on Admitting Intellectuals, Youths	P 1

NORTH REGION

Infantry Reserve Division Established in Beijing [RENMIN RIBAO 2 Feb]	R 1
Bu on Restructuring Nei Monggol Rural Industries	R 1

NORTHEAST REGION

Heilongjiang on Developing Town-Run Enterprises	S 1
---	-----

NORTHWEST REGION

Gansu Leader Stresses Physical Culture Work	T 1
Xinjiang's Wang Sums Up 1984, Plans for 1985	T 1

FOREIGN MINISTRY HOLDS WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING

Cambodia; U.S. 'Collaboration'

OW061022 Beijing XINHUA in English 1011 GMT 6 Feb 85

["Chinese Spokesman on Vietnam-led Conference" -- XINHUA headline]

[Text] Beijing, February 6 (XINHUA) -- A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman here today described the tenth conference of the foreign ministers of the three Indochinese states last month as "nothing more than a propaganda trick played by the Vietnamese authorities in coordination with their dry-season offensive." Speaking at the weekly news briefing here this afternoon, the spokesman said that "people can only despise the conference and its communique."

Responding to another question, he spoke highly of the fifth cabinet meeting of Democratic Kampuchea held under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. The meeting, he said, showed the ever-increasing political influence of the coalition government inside and outside Kampuchea as well as the further enhancement of its military strength and unity. The Chinese Government and people, he added, congratulated the meeting which expressed the determination of the Kampuchean people to fight until the Vietnamese invaders completely withdraw from Kampuchea. The spokesman said he was sure that inspired by the meeting, the Kampuchean patriotic forces and people led by Norodom Sihanouk would put up a more powerful resistance against the Vietnamese invaders and win victory over Vietnam's seventh dry-season offensive.

He also commented, in response to a question, on recent remarks by the charge d'affaires ad interim of the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing. It was reported that the Vietnamese diplomat accused China of entering into "military collaboration" with the United States in a recent interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS. "It's a repeat of Vietnamese authorities' usual propaganda," the spokesman said. "We feel regret about his making such remarks in Beijing."

Taiwan, Macao Issues

OW060942 Beijing XINHUA in English 0935 GMT 6 Feb 85

["Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Reunification" -- XINHUA headline]

[Text] Beijing, February 6 (XINHUA) -- China will not accept any propositions which envisage two Chinas or one China and one Taiwan, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today. The spokesman made this remark at a weekly news briefing here this afternoon when commenting on the proposal for establishing a "great China confederation" suggested by some in Taiwan.

He said that China appreciated the concern shown by Chinese compatriots overseas and in Taiwan towards China's reunification and their discussions on the question, since a peaceful reunification of the country was demanded by people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. However, he said, the concept of "one country, two systems", which is aimed at realizing the wish of the Chinese people, is reasonable since it has taken into consideration the interests of all sides.

On the question of Macao, the spokesman said that this question had already been settled when China and Portugal established diplomatic relations. Macao is part of the Chinese territory and questions left over from the past should be settled through negotiations at an appropriate time, he added.

RENMIN RIBAO ON REAGAN'S 1986 BUDGET PLAN

HK051148 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 5 Feb 85 p 7

[Special dispatch by reporter Zhang Liang: "Reagan Presents 1986 Budget to Congress"]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan today presented the federal budget for the 1986 fiscal year to Congress. This is the first step that Reagan's new government has taken in cutting its financial deficit, and therefore it has attracted universal attention among the people.

There are two characteristics of this budget: 1) The total budgeted spending will be frozen at the level of fiscal year 1985; and 2) while proposing cuts in civilian spending, it proposes a sharp increase in military spending.

According to this budget, the total spending for the year 1986 will be about \$974 billion, which, after readjustment for inflation, will, in fact, be lower than that of this fiscal year. The total revenue for 1986 will be \$794 billion, leaving a deficit estimated for the year 1985.

Big cuts in spending for civilian purposes are Reagan's major means to reduce federal budget deficit. According to this budget, with the exception of social insurance funds (pension funds) and three other categories, all spending for civilian purpose will be sharply cut. The reduction totals \$38.8 billion.

Like the four budgets Reagan proposed in his first term, this budget continues to give priority to increasing military spending. It stipulates that the authorized military spending for the year 1986 will total \$313.7 billion, a real increase of 5.9 percent after readjustment for inflation.

The focus is to continue to implement Reagan's plan for modernizing strategic forces and developing conventional forces. Research spending for the "star wars" plan will rise from \$1.3 billion, in 1985, to \$3.7 billion. Spending for research on antisatellite weapons and carriers for launching military satellites will rise, respectively, by 30 and 1,000 percent.

According to estimates in Caspar Weinberger's report to Congress, military spending for the years 1987 and 1988 will rise by 13 percent, respectively, and that for 1989 and 1990 will rise by 9 percent, respectively. By 1990, defense spending will possibly rise to \$477 billion.

In his budget report, Reagan stated: If measures are not taken to control the growth of spending, the expenditures of the federal government in the 1986 fiscal year will exceed \$1 trillion. This will lead to an annual deficit amount of more than \$200 billion in the next 5 years. He considers this to be "unacceptable." Reagan also promised that, by 1988, he will reduce the deficit to \$144 billion, which is \$44 billion more than the deficit figure of \$100 billion he had earlier proposed.

In order for his 1985 fiscal year budget to gain the approval of Congress, President Reagan recently held many meetings with Republican congressmen in a bid to influence them, but to little avail. Republican congressmen, headed by Dole, the Senate majority leader, still insisted that, while reducing civilian spending, it is necessary to adequately reduce the growth of military spending, or else the plan for reducing deficits would not be implemented smoothly. The Republican senators soon will put forward their own budget plan.

At the same time, Reagan's 1985 fiscal year budget has already been criticized and opposed by Democratic congressmen. Gray, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, criticized Reagan's plan for its inability to solve the deficit problem. He stated that his committee will put forward a package plan for the reduction of deficits, with the amount of reduction being roughly equal to that of the plan of the Republican Party.

Leaders of the two parties in Congress, Dole and Wright, both appeared on television programs yesterday and expressed their doubts about congressional approval for Reagan's budget plan as it stands. The two men expressed their opinion that Congress will approve a reduction of 3 percent in the growth of military spending instead of 5.9 percent. They also said that Congress will agree on a reduction in civilian spending, but it will not agree to the extent of reduction as suggested by Reagan.

ECONOMIC, MILITARY IMPACT OF BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY

HK040657 Beijing SHIJIE ZHISHI in Chinese No 2, 16 Jan 85 p 11

[Article by Shan Chen: "The Soviet Baikal-Amur Railway: The Second Major Artery Stretching Across Europe and Asia"]

[Text] The Baikal-Amur Railway, a railway project known as the "project of the century" in the Soviet Union, was "wholly opened to traffic" on 27 October last year, after 10 years of hard work at a cost of \$15 billion. It is expected that the railway will be taken over by the department concerned for official running during the period of the 12th 5-Year Plan (1986-1990). The railway starts from Ustkut in the west, and stretches eastward to Komsomolsk for a length of 3,145 km. The total length of the railway is 6,500 km if the earlier completed part from Tyumen to Ustkut (3,355 km) is included. It is the second Siberian railway of the Soviet Union, which is also called the Northern Siberian Railway. The completion of the railway is of great strategic significance to the Soviet Union economically and militarily.

The economic significance of the railway manifests itself in the following: 1. It has created a favorable condition for the development of the eastern part of the Soviet Union. The Siberian region, with a vast territory and rich natural resources, accounts for approximately 50 percent of the total area of the Soviet Union. It is estimated that the coal reserves in the region are 88 billion tons, and that its total wood reserves are 12 billion cubic meters. Besides, it has the largest copper mine in the world, and produces other nonferrous metals and precious metals such as gold, lead, zinc, tin, molybdenum, and nickel, as well as oil and natural gas.

To solve the problem of the insufficient supply of industrial raw materials and energy, and rearrange the distribution of the productive forces of the entire Soviet Union so that the eastern region would form its own independent industrial system, the Soviet Union put forth the idea of developing the eastern region at "superior speed" as early as the 1970's. The completion of the Baikal-Amur Railway project has created favorable conditions in this regard.

According to the strategic concept put forth by the 26th Congress of the CPSU on the overall arrangements for the development of the eastern and western regions, six "regional production combines" and five "industrial pivots" will be established within an area of 1.5 million square km along the Baikal-Amur Railway. The project will be carried out in two stages. The first stage is a preparatory period (up to 1990), in which main efforts will be devoted to developing communications, power plants, and building industry, and to complete the prospect and designing work for the mining areas. The second stage (1990-2000) marks a period of large-scale construction. The main construction projects in this period will include large mining base, large metallurgical base, fuel power base, mineral fertilizer base, large wood comprehensive processing system, communication, and others.

2. It has improved the insufficient railway transport capacity in the eastern region of the Soviet Union. For a long time in the past, the first Siberian railway has been used to the full. In recent years, although technical reforms such as electrification and others have been carried out to increase the annual transport capacity of the railway to more than 80 million tons, it is still far from meeting demand.

It is estimated that the present annual transport capacity of the Baikal-Amur Railway is 35 million tons, and will be increased to 70 to 75 million tons in future. In the meantime, the transport distance from the western region to the seaports in the far eastern part will be shortened by 400 to 500 km. This will considerably lighten the pressure on the first Siberian railway.

3. The railway is a second passage to the Pacific in the east. The Baikal-Amur Railway is beneficial for developing marine transportation between the Far Eastern coastal area of the Soviet Union and countries along the Pacific coast. This will promote the foreign trade of the Soviet Union. In addition, this new "continental bridge" can be used to develop the transshipment of containers, from which the Soviet Union can earn a large amount of foreign exchange.

The railway is militarily beneficial to improving the Soviet strategic disposition on the eastern front. The Soviet Army believes that railway transport plays a decisive role in the continental war zone. Communication lines should, first of all, be developed in accordance with the strategic deployment of the Armed Forces and the need ensuring the success of military operations. The building of the Baikal-Amur Railway project is an important measure for promoting construction in its battle zone.

Viewed from the angle of military operations in the battle zone, the significance of the railway lies in:

1. It has greatly enhanced the transport capacity of the Army. In ordinary times, the annual transport capacity of the railway for the Army is about 40 million tons. In time of war, the capacity will be increased to 60 million tons, through taking technical measures and reducing passenger transport. If the new lines are included, the transport capacity of the Army in time of war will be as high as 92 million tons. In such a way, more troops can be dispatched to participate in the operations.

2. It has significantly enhanced the strategic position of the eastern front. The Baikal-Amur Railway is located 200 to 500 km north of the first Siberian railway in a remote northern area of the Soviet Union. These two railways are linked by three feeder railways, thereby forming a network of communication lines. It provides Soviet troops with better conditions for launching their strategic offensive and consolidating their strategic rear bases, because, by making use of such a network of communication lines, it is easier for the Soviet troops to carry out their out-flanking and strategic maneuvers.

3. It will help maintain the operations of more communication lines in time of war. There are many river valleys, mountains, and forests along the Baikal-Amur Railway. Soviet troops can make use of them to take cover during war.

A comment on the railway by the U.S. military is: "The Baikal-Amur Railway will enable the Soviet Union to expand its position in depth, improve its communications and transportation, and enhance the combat readiness of its troops stationed along the Sino-Soviet border."

Strengthening its eastern front is beneficial for the Soviet Union to expand its influence over the Pacific region to deal with Japan and the United States.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S.-SOUTH KOREAN JOINT EXERCISE

HK060858 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 6 Feb 85 p 6

["Commentary" by RENMIN RIBAO reporters Liu Zhengxue and Feng Ziyuan: "They Should Bury the Hatchet and Work for Peace"]

[Text] With the beginning of the U.S.-South Korean joint military exercise, code named "Team Spirit-85," on 1 February, the once easing situation on the Korean peninsula has again become tense. It is reported that this is the largest joint military exercise conducted by the United States and South Korea in the last 10 years. The 1976 "Team Spirit" exercise mobilized only 46,000 troops and lasted only 10 days. Since then, the size of the joint exercises has grown each year. The 1983 joint exercise involved a total of 188,000 troops and lasted 1 and 1/2 months. Last year, the joint military exercise also lasted 1 and 1/2 months, and the number of troops involved increased to 207,000. This year's exercise will also last 1 and 1/2 months, and the number of troops involved will increase to more than 200,000. If the reserves are included, the number will be more than 300,000 people.

As far as the movements of the troops involved and the military equipment used are concerned, the current joint exercise not only mobilizes the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea and the South Korean troops, but also transfers tens of thousands of U.S. troops from the U.S. mainland and from various U.S. military bases in the Pacific region. The weapons used in the exercise include aircraft carriers armed with nuclear weapons B-52 bombers, F-16 fighters, missiles, and a great deal of other modern weapons and military equipment. This is obviously not in line with the truce agreement provisions on "stopping the delivery of weapons of all types and the dispatch of military personnel into Korea" and "preventing the occurrence of any antagonistic action in Korea."

Before the current exercise began, the U.S. Air Force's SR-71 high-altitude spy planes had intruded into Korea's territorial airspace on nine occasions. The South Korean Navy had even opened fire on the high seas, in an attempt to capture some North Korean fishing boats. All these hostile military actions by the United States and South Korea have aroused strong reactions from North Korea.

On 9 January, Son Song-pil, chairman of the Central Commission of the Red Cross of North Korea, telephoned Yu Chang-sun, president of the Red Cross of South Korea, and told him that the eighth official Red Cross meeting between the North and the South, which was originally scheduled for 23 January, be postponed to a date after the end of the joint military exercise. On 9 and 16 January, Kim Hwan, vice premier of the Korean Administrative Council, proposed to the South side that direct meetings between vice premiers from both sides be held to discuss ways to ease the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Since 1972, North Korea and South Korea have held many rounds of dialogue at different levels, but almost all of these meetings have broken up in discord. An important reason for this is that there is a lack of mutual trust. Last September, South Korea accepted the relief supplies offered by the North side, and the North-South confrontation began to relax. This positively promoted the development of the North-South dialogue. However, the United States and South Korea are bent on carrying out this large-scale military exercise, which has made the atmosphere on the Korean peninsula tense again. This is a disappointing development.

When visiting Korea last year, Comrade Hu Yaobang pointed out: "The road leading to the peaceful reunification of Korea, which the Korean party and Government are determined to take by sparing no effort, is a bright and broad road that will change hostile confrontation into peaceful coexistence and that conforms with the heavenly principles and the people's wishes." Why shouldn't the United States and South Korea follow the heavenly principles and the people's wishes by burying the hatchet and working for peace?!

WPK ISSUES MESSAGES ON FOUNDING ANNIVERSARIES

HK051246 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 2 Feb 85 p 6

[XINHUA report: "Central Committee of Workers Party of Korea Issues Message Greeting 40th Anniversaries of National Liberation, Party Founding"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 1 Feb — The Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) on 31 January issued a message greeting the 40th anniversaries of national liberation and the founding of the party. NODONG SINMUN carried the full text of the message today.

The message said that the liberation of the country on 15 August 1945 and the WPK founding on 10 October the same year were historic events that brought about an epochal turn in the life of the Korean people and the development of the Korean revolution. The grand celebration of these two anniversaries will demonstrate the historic victories and achievements of the Korean people in their revolutionary struggle and cause of construction and will demonstrate the firm will and determination of the Korean people in realizing the cause of socialism and communism.

The message demanded that all party members protect, as they protect their own eyes, and constantly strengthen the party's political and ideological unity and purity.

The message demanded that all party members and working people concentrate their efforts on developing the excavation industry, railway transportation, and the metal industry in this year's economic construction and concentrate on further improving the people's livelihood. The message put forward concrete tasks for various departments of the national economy. It stressed the necessity of wiping out the outdated ideas of conservatism, inactiveness, and technical mysticism and empiricism, to energetically unfold technical revolution, to correctly integrate spiritual incentives with material incentives in accordance with the nature of the socialist system, to rationally and scientifically manage the socialist economy, and to increase the enthusiasm and creativeness in production of the working people.

On the reunification of Korea, the message stressed that the matter is an internal affair of the Korean nation and is a great national cause, which the Korean people can accomplish by depending on their own efforts. The message states that continued and patient efforts will be made to have the tripartite talks held. The message also called upon the entire Korean people to form a great national united front, to frustrate the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists, and to struggle for the founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Korea.

The message of the WPK Central Committee stressed the importance of strengthening unity with all socialist countries, developing ties with the nonaligned and other newly emerging countries, and strengthening unity and cooperation in various fields with them. The message also expressed necessity to establish friendly relations and expand economic and cultural exchanges with capitalist countries friendly to Korea.

RONG YIREN, NAKASONE DISCUSS BUSINESS DEALINGS

OW051616 Beijing XINHUA in English 1452 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Tokyo, February 5 (XINHUA) -- Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said here today that economic cooperation with China would be enhanced with more smaller Japanese enterprises doing business with China.

In a meeting with Rong Yiren, chairman of the board of directors of China International Trust and Investment Corporation, Nakasone thanked Rong for the invitation that a Japanese delegation of medium and small enterprises pay a visit to China. The big Japanese enterprises' investments in and cooperation with China could only form individual enclaves, he said, a sea of cooperation could shape up only when medium and small ones entered into the field.

Rong Yiren said that economic cooperation was important for lasting Sino-Japanese friendship. The medium and small enterprises could play a major role in strengthening technological transfer and exchange which in the present circumstances were specially significant, he said.

COMPUTER COOPERATION CONTRACT SIGNED WITH JAPAN

OW041620 Beijing XINHUA in English 1555 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Beijing, February 4 (XINHUA) -- China is to import from Japan a production line to manufacture 16-bit microcomputers, according to a contract signed here this evening between the China Electronics Import and Export Corporation and the Nippon Electric Corporation. The Japanese corporation will provide technology, key equipment and production instruments while two parties will cooperate to develop a coding system for computerizing Chinese characters.

The line will begin producing this year at the North China Terminal Equipment Corporation in Baoding, Hebei Province. The microcomputers will be used for production control, business management and office automation.

At the signing were Chinese electronics industry Vice-Minister Liu Jianfeng and Nippon Electric Corporation Vice-Chairman Atsuyoshi Ouchi.

The Japanese corporation set up a software center in Beijing three years ago in cooperation with the China Computer Technical Service Corporation.

RADIO BROADCASTS LECTURE ON RURAL ECONOMIC POLICIES

OW060125 Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin 1120 GMT 5 Feb 85

[First in a series of 14 lectures on rural economic policies: "Speed Up the Change of the Rural Economy to Commodity Production"]

[Text] Comrades: As you all know, the party Central Committee held a national rural work conference in Beijing not long ago. The conference has set the emphasis for future rural work on furthering reform of the agricultural management system, changing the unified purchase quota system for farm produce, making fuller use of the market in regulating production within the framework of the state plan, making agricultural production meet market demand, promoting the rationalization of the rural production setup, further liberating rural productive forces, making the rural economy more vigorous than ever, and making the rural economy shift to large-scale commodity production sooner. This guiding thought of the party Central Committee shows that our rural economy has entered a new stage.

Since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, the rural situation has quickly improved due to a successful reform of the rural economy. The peasants' enthusiasm for production and the innovative and enterprising spirit displayed by the cadres and the masses are unprecedented. All-round bumper agricultural harvests have been reaped year after year, and the rural economy has been vigorously developed. Many things have exceeded all expectations. Take the major agricultural products, for instance: In 1984 China's total grain output exceeded 800 billion jin, averaging 800 jin per capita; and its cotton output reached 110 million dan, averaging 11 jin per capita. In the 3 years beginning in 1982, the grain output of our country increased by an average of 50 billion jin annually, while cotton production rose by 10 million dan annually. Such a growth rate is considerably high.

In addition, the rapid development of village and town enterprises also exceeded our expectations. In 1984 the total output value of village and town enterprises amounted to 150 billion yuan, up 23 percent from 1983. The high growth rate tendency continues in regions where the foundation of the village and town enterprises is comparatively more solid, such as Jiangsu, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiaodong [Jiaoding peninsula in Shandong Province], and southern Liaoning. The total output value of the village and town enterprises in Jiangsu Province has exceeded one-half of the total rural industrial and agricultural output value in that province. Some regions where the foundation of village and town enterprises is fragile are catching up with others in giant strides. The annual output value of village and town enterprises in Fujian Province rose by 30 percent in 1984. At present, the peasants in all parts of the country, including the coastal areas, the interior, the plains, and the mountain regions, are enthusiastic about running enterprises. According to statistics, there are more than 1.3 million village and town enterprises with a total of some 33 million workers and staff members in China. We may describe the village and town enterprises as thriving and blooming everywhere. Village and town enterprises have become one of the main props of the rural economy. Generally speaking, the most striking characteristic of the present rural economy is the rapid development of commodity production with a great momentum that has brought about profound changes in the rural economy.

1. The way for 800 million peasants to make a living is changing. More and more peasants are quitting farming to undertake industry, commerce, transport service, construction work, or service trades. At present, about one-third of the rural labor force has quit farming and switched to other professions and trades.

2. The degree of specialization and social character of rural commodity production is being constantly raised. The number of specialized households of various kinds in China has grown to some 25 million. In many localities, specialized villages and specialized townships have emerged on the basis of the development of specialized households. Many counties have produced some well-reputed marketable products of good quality. They have organized socialized cooperation in raw material production and supply, and in rough machining, finish machining, transport, and marketing of products. They have thus made production a coordinated process among various trades and professions and have built small commodity production bases. To meet the needs of specialized production in the commodity production bases, specialized markets have appeared in many localities. The specialized markets have become product and raw material exchange centers, as well as a place where technology and information are exchanged.

3. Specialized personnel, labor, and technology exchanges between urban and rural areas have increased. As some urban industries are also suitable for rural areas, they are being quickly spread to the countryside. More and more peasants have become urban traders or workers, or undertaken service trades in cities. Urban and rural areas are no longer separated from each other. They are helping each other and are developing together in a coordinated way.

The shift of the rural economy to commodity production is a strategic task of historic significance. The decision on reform of the economic structure, adopted by the 3d Plenary Session of the 12th CPC Central Committee, has pointed out: Full development of the commodity economy is an indispensable stage in the economic growth of society and a prerequisite for our economic modernization. In the course of socialist modernization, we must not skip the stage of full development of the commodity economy. This is because an economy where peasants are self-sufficient will not be able to enrich or modernize our country. It is possible to achieve national economic modernization only after we have fully developed the commodity economy and shaken off poverty and backwardness. With the development of the commodity economy in the last few years, the rural areas have become well-off and the peasants can now afford to learn modern science and technology and apply science in production and operation. The peasants have started to run modern industries and build small towns with modern facilities. This fact shows the importance of the development of the rural commodity economy to agricultural modernization. For this reason, we must accelerate the shift of the rural economy to commodity production.

Of course, the shift will take some time in which we will encounter many problems and difficulties. For instance, agricultural production cannot meet market demands. Output of some products have increased, but quality remains poor and variety is limited. It is difficult to buy some things and sell others. The production setup is irrational. Forestry is making slow progress. Animal husbandry and fishery are lagging behind. The geographical distribution of industries is irrational. Some regions fail to take advantage of their superior features. Economic development in some regions is slow. And, the problem of providing food and clothing to several dozen million people has not yet been completely solved. However, these disharmonious phenomena can be improved after much work is done. It is important to continue to thoroughly reform the rural economic management system. We might call it the second reform since we have already accomplished one reform, economic reform focused on the implementation of the output-related system of contracted responsibilities. This reform has liberated the rural productive forces, developed rural commodity production, and brought about profound changes in the rural economy. The second reform is designed to shift the rural economy as a whole to commodity production, make the rural commodity economy become even more flexible, and hasten its development.

The difficulty of selling grain has been quite a conspicuous problem in recent years. In the past, people merely attributed the problem to the sluggish commodity circulation. We have now found that it is also due to the irrational production setup. Grain production has increased, but the increase has not been matched by developments in animal husbandry, agriculture, and the fodder and food industries. Moreover, the majority of the peasants grow grain for their own needs, and very few of them need to buy commercial grain because industry, commerce, the service trades and production of industrial crops have not yet been fully developed in the countryside, and only a small percentage of the rural population is engaged in them. This is why grain is hard to sell.

To solve this problem, it is necessary to readjust the production setup. How can we readjust it? Should the readjustment be made through a mandate in the state plan, or should the readjustment be made through market regulation under the guidance of the state plan? Our practice in recent years has proved that the mandate is ineffective. The only way is to reform the existing economic management system, implement the policy of enlivening the economy, let the peasants arrange production according to market demand, and gradually form a rational rural production setup.

The present rural economic management system is defective and unable to meet the needs of the development of commodity production in rural areas. With increased grain production, why is the development of animal husbandry, agriculture, and food and fodder industries slower? It is because of the commodity circulation and the pricing systems. Owing to the relatively high state purchase price of grain and the low price of hogs, peasants would rather sell their grain to the state than feed grain to the pigs. They would lose money if they had to buy grain to feed the pigs. Profits from the processing of food and fodder purchased at high prices are also marginal. This shows that in order to readjust the rural production structure in an overall manner, it is necessary to continue reform of economic management system by gradually lifting restrictions on the pricing of farm and sideline products and on marketing. But most importantly, it is necessary to reform the system of unified or assigned purchase, changing the previous practice of rigid control, lifting restrictions to invigorate the economy, and expanding the role of market regulation under the guidance of state planning.

XI ZHONGXUN, OTHERS MEET YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS

OW051700 Beijing XINHUA in English 1615 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Beijing, February 5 (XINHUA) -- Senior party leader Xi Zhongxun encouraged the 100 outstanding young business leaders to strive for better achievements in the new year during a meeting with them here today.

The 100 business leaders were elected as the best factory directors or managers for their excellent work done during the current economic reforms, and ten of them were given the title "entrepreneur".

Xi Zhongxun, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China expressed the hope that the current economic reforms would bring forth thousands of business leaders like them.

I. 6 Feb 85

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CHINA
PRC NATIONAL AFFAIRS

While talking with the young people, Song Renqiong, another member of the Political Bureau of the C.P.C. Central Committee, told them to handle well the relationship between the interests of the state, the collective and individuals, saying "you should place the interests of the party and the state in the first place and at the same time pay attention to the well-being of the workers and help them solve practical problems. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Present at the meeting were Hu Qili, member, and Qiao Shi, alternate member, of the C.P.C. Central Committee Secretariat, and Li Peng, vice-premier of the State Council.

XI ZHONGXUN, FANG YI MEET MEDICAL PERSONNEL

OW051832 Beijing Domestic Service in Mandarin 2230 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] The Second Congress of the All-China Society of Chinese Medicine recently elected a new leading organ, the Second Council of the society. Public Health Minister Cui Yueli remains as president. At the proposal of a number of veteran Chinese medicine doctors, the congress decided to establish a national foundation for revitalizing Chinese medicine to raise cash awards for young and middle-aged personnel who made outstanding contributions to revitalizing Chinese medicine.

During the session, Xi Zhongxun, Fang Yi, Song Rengiong, Hu Qili, and other leading comrades received delegates at the Great Hall of the People. They urged doctors to contribute to the revitalization of Chinese medicine and scale new heights in world medicine.

ULANHU ATTENDS PICTORIAL FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

OW060426 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1447 GMT 5 Feb 85

[By reporter Chen Yan]

[Text] Beijing, 5 Feb (XINHUA) -- A reception to mark the 30th anniversary of the publication of MINZU HUABAO [NATIONALITIES PICTORIAL] was held at the Cultural Palace for Nationalities in the capital on the afternoon of 5 February.

Vice President Ulanhu sent a letter to encourage the pictorial, which is quite popular among the people of all nationalities in the country, to reflect new faces of all nationalities in the country, to reflect new faces of all nationalities and promote the building of the four modernizations. NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairman Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme and Banqen Erdini Qoigyil Gyancan, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and Chairman of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission Yang Jingren, and of the CPPCC National Committee, Vice Chairman Fei Xiaotong, attended the reception and extended their congratulations. MINZU HUABAO was first published in Beijing in February 1955, with the title of the pictorial written by Premier Zhou Enlai. Reflecting mainly the political, economic, and social life, as well as culture and education, of minorities in China, the pictorial is published in six languages, including Han, Monggol, Tibetan, Uyghur, Korean, and Kazak. So far, a total of 257 issues have been published and distributed in over 30 countries and regions, including Japan, Korea, and Mongolia.

Chief editor of the pictorial, Hao Chun, reviewed development of the pictorial over the past 3 decades. State Nationalities Affairs Commission Vice Chairman Ren Ying, founder of the pictorial SA KONGLIAO, and Chinese Photographers Association Chairman Xu Xiaobing spoke at the reception. A photo exhibition on the pictorial's achievements in the past 3 decades also opened at the Cultural Palace for Nationalities this afternoon.

CHEN PIXIAN ON GRASSROOTS POLITICAL POWER

OW051013 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0854 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Beijing, 4 Feb (XINHUA) -- On 29 January Chen Pixian, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, secretary of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and secretary of the Central Political and Legal Commission, met with directors of all provincial, autonomous regional, and municipal civil affairs departments who were attending the national political and legal work meeting. Chen Pixian pointed out: "The Civil Affairs Department is an important department that plays a major role in fundamentally improving social order. The Civil Affairs Department must promote grassroots political power construction well."

Chen Pixian said: China has over 84,000 townships, over 7,000 towns, and more than 820,000 villagers' committees. If we promote grassroots political power construction in townships, towns, and cities well, the social order can be improved easily. The party Central Committee and the State Council have handed over the heavy task of grassroots political power construction to the Civil Affairs Department. The Civil Affairs Department must do this work well. Chen Pixian said: In addition to promoting grassroots political power construction well, the Civil Affairs Department must also provide relief to people in disaster areas, give special care to disabled servicemen and family members of revolutionary martyrs and servicemen, and do other social welfare work. All this directly and indirectly concerns the welfare of more than 200 million people in the country and the stability of society. At present, the Civil Affairs Department has difficulties. However, as the state economy improves, the difficulties will dwindle. You must continue to blaze new trails. Enterprises run by the Civil Affairs Department must promote their economy not only to reduce your difficulties but also to create favorable conditions for you to do your work well.

Zheng Tianxiang, president of the Supreme People's Court; Yang Yichen, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Procuratorate; Liu Fuzhi, minister of public security; Ling Yun, minister of state security; Zou Yu, minister of justice; Yan Jinsheng, deputy head of the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; and Cui Naifu, minister of civil affairs, were also present on the occasion.

CPPCC MEMBERS TO MAKE INSPECTION TOURS IN MARCH

OW052030 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1320 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Beijing, 5 Feb (XINHUA) -- Members of the CPPCC National Committee will visit and inspect various localities before the convocation of the Third Session of the Sixth CPPCC National Committee. This was revealed in a circular issued by the General Office of the CPPCC National Committee to the various provincial, regional, and municipal CPPCC Committees today.

The circular says: The CPPCC National Committee asks that provincial, regional, or municipal CPPCC Committees organize on its behalf the CPPCC National Committee members residing or working in their places to conduct the inspection on the spot. The circular says: The inspection will begin in early March until 15 March. The views expressed by the CPPCC members and the suggestions made by them during the inspection will be presented to the departments concerned for handling through local CPPCC Committees or the General Office of the CPPCC National Committee. The circular says: The CPPCC members, in principle, shall not bring with them accompanying personnel during their inspection tours. In receiving the CPPCC members, various localities should dispense with all unnecessary formalities.

CHEN YUN'S ACCOUNT OF RED ARMY'S WESTWARD MARCH

HK310101 Beijing HONGQI in Chinese No 1, 1 Jan 85 pp 6-29

[Article by Chen Yun: "Notes on What I Saw and Heard When I Went Westward With the Army"]

[Text] Editor's note: January of this year is the 50th anniversary of the convening of the Zunyi meeting. During and shortly after convening this enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, the leadership of Comrade Mao Zedong in the party and Army was actually established. This ensured a successful completion of the Long March, and enabled the Chinese revolution to win one victory after another, and to enter a new historical period. Therefore, the Zunyi meeting has been generally acknowledged as a great turning point in the history of the Chinese revolution. Now we publish "Notes on What I Saw and Heard When I Went Westward With the Army" written by Comrade Chen Yun in 1935 to mark the occasion.

The article was first published in the Paris QUANMIN YUEKAN [MONTHLY OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE] run by the CPC, and pamphlets were published in Moscow in the same year. To facilitate the circulation of the article in the KMT-ruled areas, the author used the pen name Lian Chen. In the article the author was a fictitious KMT medical officer captured by the Red Army. [end editor's note]

The forces of the CPC have been expanding so rapidly in recent years. The Red Army led by Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Xu Xiangqian, He Long, Xiao Ke, and others has become a powerful force in our country. When the Red Army was just established, it was a single spark, but it has not started a prairie fire. The Red Army units led by Mao Zedong and Zhu De were composed of the remnants of the troops of Ye Ting and He Long led by Zhu De, and the peasant army of Hunan and Jiangxi led by Mao Zedong in the 16th year of the Republic of China when the KMT and CPC split. Nanjing and various provinces have sent troops to encircle and suppress them for 8 or 9 years. But the actual strength of Mao Zedong and Zhu De has increased rather than being weakened. Over the past year, Chiang Kai-shek personally supervised the operation of suppression, and the work of building one block-house after another, trying to annihilate the Red Army at one go. However, knowing the enemy's strategy, in mid-October last year Mao Zedong and Zhu De led their troops to break out of the encirclement. They went westward from the border of Hunan and Guangdong to enter Guizhou Province. After staying in the three provinces of Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan for a certain period, they eventually ran the risk of forcing their way across the Jinsha Jiang and Dadu He (these two rivers are at the upper reaches of the Chang Jiang and are very wide and swift-running) to enter Sichuan, and join forces with Xu Xiangqian in the northern part of Sichuan. Now that these two great Red Army units of China have joined forces they have continued to gain momentum. In the meantime, the military focal point has been shifted from the southeast to the northwest.

I am a doctor by occupation, and served the Nanjing military authorities for 4 years. The year before last, I served Nanjing's 59th division, and was captured by the Red Army in the battle of Donghuang Bo in Jiangxi (Footnote 1) (This refers to the 4th military "encirclement and suppression" of the KMT troops against the central revolutionary base. Donghuang Bo means Dong Bo and Huang Bo, which are two townships in Yuhuang County of Jiangxi Province.) Shortly after my capture, I thought I could not survive. I was sent to Ruijin, in the rear of the Red areas. Due to the fact that I was a medical officer, I was detained in the health section of the Red Army. He Cheng, chief of the section, talked with me personally. At that time, the number of medical officers in the Red Army was limited.

They wanted me to serve in a Red Army hospital, and said that they would pay me the same salary as I received in the 59th Division. Every month I was allowed to send 60 yuan to my family members as a family allowance. Since I was a captive, I had no choice in the matter. However, the Red Army kept its word. I received my monthly salary. I also got my mother's letter saying that she received the family allowance that I sent every month. Thereafter, I was sent on several occasions to a Red Army preparatory hospital in Shimen. The leading figures of the Red Army such as Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Lin Biao, Peng Dehuai, and some other important figures of the CPC Central Bureau in the Red areas received my medical treatment. I first thought that these Red leading figures, who were famous throughout the country, must have been fierce and brutal. However, once I met them, I was very surprised to find that they were not. When I first gave Mao Zedong medical treatment, I found out that he was like a scholar. He wore a student's suit made of grey cloth. In his spare time, he liked to read Tang poems. He was gifted with a silver tongue. When I treated him, I found out that he was a modest man. People knew that Zhu De was a military man even at the first glance. He was about 50 years old and wore a grey military uniform. Although he was suffering from malaria, he kept on working. It seemed he was busy with his work. When I entered his room to make a diagnosis and give him treatment, he was reading a military bulletin, and had a writing brush in his hand. He put down the writing brush when he saw me. He was polite. When I talked with him, I did not find that he was arrogant. These two leading figures of the Red Army were completely different from what I had imagined them to be before meeting them.

In mid-October last year, the Nanjing troops occupied Xingguo, and the Red Army broke out of the encirclement to march westward. I was also taken along. This was the first march I had ever undertaken. We only rested in Zunyi, located at the northern border of Guizhou Province, for about 10 days or so, and had another rest for 5 days or so near the boundary of Huili County after crossing the Jinsha Jiang. After that, the Red Army kept on marching come rain or shine. Starting from Jiangxi, it marched through Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, Yunnan, Xikang (Footnote 2) (Xikang was the name of an old province. In 1950, Changdu Prefecture was established in the western parts of the Jinsha Jiang in the province. In 1955, Xikang Province was abolished, and the areas formerly governed by it were incorporated into Sichuan Province. In 1956, Changdu prefecture was incorporated into the Xizang Autonomous Region.), and eventually became Lipan (Footnote 3) (The present Li County in Sichuan Province) and Songpan of Sichuan Province. It travelled a total distance of 12,000 li in a period of 8 months or so, covering most areas in the northern parts of the Chang Jiang. The Red Army climbed numerous high mountains and crossed many big rivers, and eventually joined forces with the troops of Xu Xiangqian. I was frail and weak. I was fortunate that I could endure the hardships and survive. In the meantime, I also felt fortunate because I was able to travel to various provinces along the Chang Jiang and Zhu Jiang valleys for the first time in my life, and saw many places that I had never dreamed of. I was proud of this. During the first half of last July, He Cheng, chief of the health section, assigned me to work as a medical officer in the guerilla brigade in Mao (Gong) (Footnote 4) (The present Xiaojin County in Sichuan Province) and Bao (Xing). I shuttled between the mountain areas of the two counties. One morning, the Sichuan troops attacked our guerrilla brigade, I became separated from it. Twenty yuan which was all I had was extorted by the civil corps. Later, I was fortunate enough to meet a medical officer of the 5th Brigade, Mr Jiang, who was my former schoolmate. With his help, I traveled by ship via Tianquan, Yazhou (Footnote 5) (The present Yaan City in Sichuan Province), Chengdu, and Chongqing and finally arrived at my home town.

The fact that the Red Army abandoned their long-established bases in Fujian and Jiangxi to enter Sichuan was obviously a planned action. As far as I knew, before withdrawing from Jiangxi last year, the Red Army had already made full preparations. From May to September, the Red Army recruited more than 100,000 new soldiers.

When Dr Lin and Dr He (Dr He was a subordinate of Zhang Huizan and was later captured by the Red Army.) (Footnote 6) (Zhang Huizan, 1885-1931, a native of Changsha, Hunan Province. He was once commander of the 18th division of the KMT forces. In December 1930, his troops were wiped out by the Red Army, and Zhang was captured.) and I were sent to work in a clinic of the Military Industrial Bureau (an administrative bureau responsible for managing various military supplies factories of the Red Army), we learned that several thousand workers in the munitions factories and the clothing factories were very busy with their work day and night. Later, in September, the HONGSE ZHONGHUA (an organ of the central government of the Red areas) published an article written by Zhang Wentian (chairman of the people's committee of the central government) (Footnote 7) (Zhang Wentian's "Give One's All to Defend the Soviet," published in HONGSE ZHONGHUA, No 239, 29 September 1934). The article revealed that the Red Army might possibly give up Jiangxi to continue its activities in the regions outside the areas formerly controlled by the Red Army, and in the zones that were not the target of attack of the "encirclement and suppression" military forces. Just as we expected, in mid-October, all troops of the Red Army marched to the west. When the troops under the command of Mao Zedong and Zhu De were breaking out of the encirclement, only a small number of soldiers stayed in Jiangxi. Mao Zedong and Zhu De led 130,000 to 140,000 troops of the Red Army in the retreat from Jiangxi. Almost all communist leading figures left with the Army. Tens of thousands of communist junior and middle-ranking cadres from various counties marched with the Army. There were 100 to 200 women cadres who carried pistols on their hips, and wore straw sandals. These women fighters were healthy and strong and walked as if on wings. They frequently took care of the wounded soldiers in the health section. Sometimes, they carried wounded soldiers on stretchers just as the men did.

The Red Army crossed the Xinfeng Jiang in two groups (the first group crossed the river from the Wangmu ferry in the northern part of the Xinfeng Jiang, the other group defeated the GuangJong Army which occupied Gopo and Xintian in the southeastern part of the river) (Footnote 8) (The Xinfeng Jiang was part of the Tao Jiang, a tributary of the Gongshui River passing through Xinfeng County in Jiangxi Province). In other words, the Red Army crossed the Zhangshui River from a location between the two counties of Nankang and Dayu (Footnote 9) (The present Dayu County in Jiangxi Province). It broke out of the encirclement along the highway from Ganzhou to Nanxiong. The Guangdong Army had built pillboxes and defending troops were stationed in the areas. However, since they were hopelessly outnumbered, they fled once they heard that the Red Army was about to attack them. In such a way, the first line of pillboxes built by the KMT troops which encircled the Red Army for many years were completely destroyed. The pillboxes along the highway were demolished by the Red Army and the residents who hated the KMT troops for bullying them when buying things from them on credit. The purpose of building the pillboxes was to encircle the Red Army. They were usually built along the two sides of highways, at important intersections, and on mountain ridges. These pillboxes were made of stones and bricks in the shape of a square or a hexagon. There were pillboxes of different sizes controlled by a platoon, company, or battalion. Usually, soldiers were stationed in the pillboxes, and they were armed with rifles and machineguns. They could shoot from inside the pillboxes. There was only a small door in each pillbox. When the Red Army launched at attack, the soldiers in the pillbox shut the door and shot from inside to defend the position. Such pillboxes greatly harmed the military operations of the Red Army. Therefore, the Red Army had to destroy them. The troops stationed in these pillboxes failed to observe discipline when they dealt with the peasants. Hence when the Red Army arrived, these residents joined in the demolition of these pillboxes. When the Red Army broke out of the blockade lines, it was like a tiger that had grown wings. It fiercely attacked some parts of Rucheng at the Hunan-Guangdong border (within the boundaries of Hunan), and Changkou (the northern part of Renhua in Guangdong), and then occupied Chengkou.

Several thousand barrels of kerosene and a large quantity of ammunition belonging to the Guangdong troops were seized by the Red Army. The pillboxes built by Guangdong troops in Chengkou which linked with those in Rucheng and Guidong in Hunan (the second blockade line of the KMT troops) were attacked and all the pillboxes demolished. Then, the Red Army was irresistible. The Nanjing troops were stationed along the border of Hunan and Guizhou. The Guangdong troops could only defend themselves. How could the Hunan troops resist the Red Army by themselves? They fled once they heard that the Red Army was marching toward them. Therefore, the Red Army occupied Yizhang City without any resistance. It crossed the highway along the Guangdong-Hankou railway (the third blockade line of the KMT troops) to destroy the pillboxes as it had done in the past. Its vanguard units occupied Lingwu, Jiahe, and Lanshan. Then, the units under Li Yunshan of the Hunan troops marched southward from Ningyuan intending to intercept the Red Army near the Tiantang country fair. However, they were encircled by the Red Army at the Tiantang country fair, were badly battered, and fled to the north. The Red Army again seized a large quantity of ammunition. At that time, the Red Army was smashing the enemy like splitting bamboo. It continued the march along two routes to attack Daozhou (Footnote 10) (The present Daoxian County in Hunan Province), and Jianghua as well as Yongming (Footnote 11) (The present Jiangyong County in Hunan Province). Once these towns were occupied, all the Red Army crossed the Xiaoshui River. At that time, the Nanjing troops and Hunan troops were no longer capable of following the tracks of the Red Army in order to suppress it. Only a small number of troops was sent to follow and keep watch on the operations of the Red Army. Most of the troops of Xue Yue and Zhou Hunyuan (Footnote 12) (Xue Yue was born in 1896, a native of Lechang county in Guangdong. He was commander in chief of the 2d route army of the KMT troops in charge of "suppressing the bandits." Zhou Hunyuan was a commander of the 2d column of the 2d route army of the KMT troops in charge of "suppressing the bandits."), and Hunan troops were deployed in Lingling (within the boundaries of Hunan Province) and Quanzhou (within the boundaries of Guangxi) along the Xiang Jiang. Most of the Guangxi troops were ordered to stations in Guanyang and Xingan. According to the plan of Chiang Kai-shek, the main forces were sent to intercept the Red Army that was crossing the river, and to chase the Red Army from the north into Guangxi. When the Red Army and the Guangxi troops both suffered losses, Chiang Kai-shek would reap third party profit. However, Li Zhongren and Bai Chongxi knew Chiang's tricks. They tried to maintain their main forces, and worried about the possibility that if the Red Army could not cross the river, it would stay in Guangxi Province and carry out its activities near Guilin. They also feared that the columns of Xue and Zhou, which followed the trail of the Red Army, would penetrate into Guangxi. In such a way, the power of Guangxi Province would fall into the hands of Nanjing. Therefore, they withdrew the Guangxi troops stationed in Guian to the south. Although the columns of Xue and Zhou and Hunan troops launched an attack by relying on their own efforts, they could not prevent the Red Army from crossing the river. Therefore, it was able to cross the Xiang Jiang safe and sound, and demolish the pillboxes on the highways along the banks of the Xiang Jiang (the fourth blockade line of the KMT troops). Once the Red Army broke the fourth blockade line, it was like a tiger released from a cage. It could attack east and west. The strategy of pillboxes worked out and implemented by the Nanjing government of Chiang Kai-shek to "suppress the bandits" ended in failure.

The feeling of joy in the Red Army was beyond description. The Political Department of the Red Army made use of the former music score of the march of the Chinese cavalry to compose a new song. The soldiers of the Red Army were taught to sing it. More than 200 nurses (most of them were young people of 15 or 16) in the health section in which I worked sang the song every day. The song expressed the feeling of joy of the Red Army and ridiculed the pillbox policy of Chiang Kai-shek.

The song said: "The leadership of the Communist Party is truly correct, and the people support it abundantly. The Red Army fought heroically to smash the tortoiseshells of the KMT (the pillboxes of the KMT). We are truly happy. We are truly happy. We are truly happy."

The reason the Red Army succeeded in breaking through a tight encirclement was due not only to its military power, but also to the support of the people. When the Red Army was entering the northern parts of Hunan, and passing by Zixing, Chenzhou, Yizhang and so on where Mao Zedong and Zhu De had carried out their activities for a long time and spread propaganda among the masses, once residents learned that the Red Army would pass by again, they waited along the roads where the soldiers would pass to supply them with water and tea. During the march, in every village and township the Red Army passed, men and women, old and young stood by the roadside. There was a crowd of spectators. A few years before, when Mao Zedong and Zhu De carried out their activities in various counties in the southern part of Hunan, some residents had joined the Red Army. When the Red Army passed by these areas again, family members of these soldiers stood on the intersections to ask the Red Army men whether their sons or nephews were still alive. A leader of the administrative department of the health section (a post equivalent to a mess officer in the Nanjing troops) was a native of Wenmingsi village in Yizhang county. When the Army was passing by the village, his old mother greeted him at the roadside. However, the troops continued their march after a 15-minute break. The head of the Administrative Department asked the chief staff officer of the health section for a 2-hour leave (at that time, the health section was an echelon) in order to return home. He returned to the section on the same day with 10 peasants who intended to join the Red Army and 2 peasants who intended to become porters (one of them was a porter who later helped me carry my luggage). He also brought home-made sweet white wine and gave some to me and other people (the wine was made of rice, far better than that produced in Jiangxi).

The reason peasants in the southern parts of Hunan Province accepted the communist propaganda was partly due to the activities of the communists and the bullying and the humiliation imposed by local tyrants and evil members of the gentry on peasants. When those local tyrants and evil members of the gentry returned to their former villages after the withdrawal of Mao Zedong and Zhu De from the southern parts of Hunan, they extorted money from the poor peasants in the name of searching for the communists. Therefore, peasants returned bad for evil, and poor people also hated them very much. The porter whom the head of the Administrative Department had recruited for me said: "A few days ago when we learned that the Red Army would be coming back, more than 30 households in our village, which were persecuted by district head Li, held a secret meeting to stealthily keep watch on his movements. On the morning of the day before yesterday when the defense corps retreated from Wenmingsi village, more than 100 men and women from these 30 households or so arrested district head Li in a village more than 20 li away from the town. At 1200 the day before yesterday, district head Li was seized and handed over to the command of the Red Army. They also led a company of the Red Army soldiers to search a mountain and discovered more than 20 rifles and pistols of the defense corps. Now 50 members from these 30 or so households have become Red Army fighters." He added: "We poor people have food to eat only after the Red Army has come. I, as a porter, get one yuan every 2 days. In the meantime, I get a 10-day salary as a family allowance. Two days ago, 88 peasants from the 2 villages near my home joined the Red Army as porters." Peasants in the southern parts of Hunan fully trusted the Communist Party. Such things happened not in one locality alone.

I saw such things happen in various towns, townships, and villages in the southern part of Hunan Province and Quanzhou, which the Red Army passed by when it was crossing the Xiang Jiang.

The reason the Red Army enjoyed the ardent support of the people was not only because the peasants in the village supported the propaganda and moves of the Red Army of "expropriating the local tyrants to distribute their land," and "confiscating the grain and rice of the local tyrants and evil gentry to distribute them among peasants," but also because the Red Army strictly observed discipline. The three main rules of discipline and the eight points of attention (I no longer remember their contents) of the Red Army of Mao Zedong and Zhu De were truly observed by the soldiers. For example, when the troops entered Tingshou country market (a big township in the southern part of Hunan) and Yizang City, the paper money issued by the Red Army was convertible into silver dollars. Therefore, the shops in the whole city operated their business as usual with the exception of a few big shop owners who had fled because they were afraid of being suspected as local tyrants and the evil gentry. Their business volume increased by 300 percent. I had never seen this when I served the Nanjing troops for many years and when the troops were marching along, or stationed in remote villages and districts. In the past, various provinces were reluctant to accept bank notes issued by the Central Bank. Since there were no branches of the bank set up in various localities, these bank notes were, of course, not convertible into silver dollars. Therefore, when the Nanjing troops arrived in certain localities, the military command issued an order that "the bank notes can be used in the city." However, since there were no offices responsible for converting the bank notes, businessmen and common people doubted the convertibility of the bank notes issued by the Central Bank. In particular, the soldiers of the Nanjing troops did not observe discipline. This left a very bad impression on the local residents.

There was another thing that the KMT troops lacked, and this matter provided me with much food for deep thought. When the Red Army was passing by Yizang, there were more than 400 workers building the Guangdong-Hankou railway (at that time the project was not yet completed and the railway was only temporarily open to traffic). There were several Communist Party members among the workers, who had secretly carried out their activities for many years. One of the Communist Party members was a student. He was sent by the party to carry out activities among railway workers. When the Red Army came, all the workers joined the Army. When I passed by the area, I saw railway workers undergoing military drill and carrying their rifles. The Red Army sent officers to train them. After working as a railway worker for several years, the communist student became a political commissar. (The post of political commissar was set up in units above the level of battalion. The political commissar had fairly great power.) On that day, he was delivering a speech to workers. The matter made me recall past events when the KMT was carrying out the northern expedition, and the masses in various localities reacted to it warmly. The northern expeditionary troops smashed all enemy resistance, just like troops from heaven. However, after the split between the KMT and the CPC, such a warm response no longer occurred. People of the whole country were disappointed with the KMT. The communists quietly immersed themselves in hard work. However, the KMT members hankered after fame and gain. Have we seen any KMT member working hard in the three northeastern provinces under the rule of the Japanese forces? I deeply feel that the communist forces have been deeply rooted in the society. It is difficult for the KMT to succeed in "suppressing the communist bandits" and annihilating them.

The successful crossing of the Xiang Jiang by the Red Army meant a complete defeat of the Xue and Zhou and the Guangxi troops, which tried to intercept the Red Army. It was also difficult for them to follow the trail of the Red Army, because after crossing the Xiang Jiang, the Red Army climbed and crossed over the Xiyan mountain chain of the Yuecheng ridge. (Footnote 13) (The Xiyan mountain chain was the former name of parts of Yuecheng ridge near Ziyuan County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Prefecture. The KMT troops were unable to chase and suppress the Red Army because of the rolling hills. In the meantime, the rearguard of the Red Army resisted the attacks continuously. At the same time, the vanguard units of the Red Army had already advanced westward toward the Hunan-Guizhou border.

The reason the Red Army successfully climbed and crossed over the rolling Xiyan ridge and avoided losses in the mountains and sparsely populated areas should be attributed to the good points of the officers and men of the Red Army in bearing hardships and withstanding hard work, and to their other merits. All these were things the KMT troops lacked.

Laoshanjie (Footnote 14) (Laoshanjie is located at the junction of Ziyuan County and Xingan County in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.), the peak of the Xiyan mountain chain, was the first high mountain that I had climbed in the past 10 years or so. Qianjiasi (Footnote 15) (Qianjiasi is a village of the present Jianghua township of Xingan County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region.) was located at the foot of Laoshanjie. I could still remember that the health section arrived at Qianjiasi in the afternoon. After lunch and a short break, we then climbed the mountain. After climbing the mountain for about 20 li, we arrived in a small village where there were seven or eight households. At that time, it was getting dark. Porters and grovms were busy looking for torches. The troops kept on marching although it was already rk. Some of our soldiers did not have torches (because there was only a limited number of households in the village, and the materials for making torches were not available), they could only grope their way in the dark. They marched very slowly. Our 6th company marched at the head of the column. We had to stop after each single step. It was cold and windy, and the mountain was high. The flow of the spring water under the mountain was like 10 thousand horses galloping ahead. We were extremely tired, but we dared not close our eyes, because the path was very narrow with a width of only one customs chi (Footnote 16) (Refers to one foot, which is equal to 0.3048 of a meter). During the march, a nurse slipped and fell into a ditch because it was very dark and she had no torch, and she was also very tired. A soldier acted under orders to hold the branches of a tree and climb down into the ditch to rescue her. But the nurse's body was all covered with mud, and she was so frightened that she could not speak even a word. People drew a lesson from this incident, and walked slowly and cautiously. Due to the fact that the column advanced very slowly, two or three of the torches, which were prepared that afternoon, had already burned out. Later, there were no torches. There were only a few, scattered barn lanterns. The advance of the column was getting slower and slower. After moving several steps, people had to halt for 50 minutes. They could neither walk nor rest. It was already 0200, and a verbal order from the commander was passed from the front to the rear: "Various companies should encamp at road side. Mess cooks from various companies go to the front to prepare food." People passed the verbal order one by one and said: "Pass the order to the back;" "...we were really very tired.

Although the road was wet, we lay down in disorder and covered ourselves with quilts. We fell asleep very soon. We had never slept so soundly in our lives. In less than 20 minutes, people snored and went off to dreamland.

The next morning, the reveille was sounded before daybreak. We got up and ate our breakfast. We also had our midday meal prepared. According to the local inhabitants, the distance from that place to Tangzhuang (Footnote 17) (The present Tangtong village in Liangshui Township of Ziyuan County in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region) was 60 li, and the distance to the mountain foot was 40 li.

The column could not march faster because the mountain was too steep. When climbing the mountain, we had pains in our legs and felt exhausted even without carrying any load. It was indeed hard for those porters to climb the mountain carrying 35 jin loads on shoulder poles.

The Political Department of the Red Army marched in front of the general health section. Important figures of the central government of the Red areas Lin Zuhan (Footnote 18) (The other name of Lin Zuhan was Lin Boqu.), Xu Teli and others were marching together with other members of the Political Department. During the march, I met Lin and Xu from time to time. When we were climbing Laoshan jie, I saw them walking and climbing the mountain. Lin Zuhan was financial minister of the central government in the Red areas. He worked together with Sun Yat-sen to establish the Tung Meng Hui, and lead the 1911 revolution. During the Northern Expedition, he was a party representative of the 6th Army of the National Revolutionary Army. The financial plans of the Red areas were worked out by him. Lin was about 50. Although his hair had already turned grey, he was in good health. During the march which lasted more than 8 months, he rode a horse for only 18 days. He often walked. Xu Teli was a deputy education minister. He was over 50. Xu originally had a horse. On the way, when he learned that there were not enough donkeys and horses for wounded soldiers, he transferred his horse to the health section for the use of wounded soldiers. After that, he went on foot during the march. These two old men Lin and Xu preserved their integrity. The older they got, the stronger they became. Such a spirit was what the important officers of the Nanjing government lacked.

Laoshan jie was a high mountain which made people feel frightened. When we reached one mountain top, we saw that there was yet another peak in front. However, when we reached that peak, we found out there was another peak. In this way, we climbed one peak after another. We were gasping for breath and sweating all over. Just then, we heard an indistinct song transmitted from a gramophone: "You, Mao Yanshou, are a traitor who should be accused of..." After the song, we heard another song: "Comrades, let us take up our swords and rifles quickly! We are the armed forces of the people. We want to overthrow imperialism and the KMT..." It was the propaganda team of the Political Department that carried out its own activities in a propaganda shed to encourage people in the march and inspire the spirit of the troop so they forgot their fatigue on the march. Comrades of the propaganda team wrote with chalk on a stone beside the propaganda shed: "Exert more effort, comrades! We will reach the peak after walking for another 25 li," "Let us compete, and see who will be the first to reach the peak." After hearing the songs transmitted by the gramophone in the propaganda shed and singing songs, we truly forgot the fatigue resulting from our march. Those young nurses in our team also sang: "...XXX should be abused, because you are a traitor (Footnote 19) (XXX here refers to Chiang Kai-shek. To facilitate the circulation of this article in the KMT-Ruled areas, the name was not openly stated here.) Why do you throw in your lot with the Japanese? You are utterly devoid of conscience." Their song incited us to sing: "Let us smash the tortoiseshells of the KMT, we feel truly happy...."

While singing, we kept on marching. We climbed 12 peaks and eventually reached the top of the mountain. We felt happy and excited after that. It was already 1600. After climbing a mountain 80 li in height, we eventually reached the top.

The distance from the mountain top to Tangzhuang was said to be 20 li, but we actually traversed 35 li. We had to feel our way in the dark for part of our journey. We arrived at Tangzhuang at night and encamped there.

Laoshanjie, which was 80 li in height, was, of course, not high compared with other mountains climbed later by other Red Army units. However, it was not easy to keep on marching for 2 days and 2 nights without many soldiers and porters dropping out (wounded soldiers of the health section also arrived at the destination). All this should be attributed to the unity of the soldiers and porters in the Red Army. In the meantime, during the march, the Political Department of the Red Army adopted methods such as setting up propaganda sheds and other things to mitigate the fatigue and inspire the people's spirit. This truly showed that they had worked out a well-conceived plan.

The Red Army faced numerous difficulties around the Xiyan mountain range. One of the greatest difficulties was that whenever it arrived at a village or township, all the houses and grain there were burned. Who actually did this? At the beginning, common people thought that it was done by the Red Army. However, I did not completely believe this, because many townships and villages had been burned down before the Red Army arrived. Why should the Red Army create difficulties for itself? With all the houses and grain burned, did this not mean that soldiers of the Red Army had no place to live and had nothing to eat? The whole thing eventually came to light. The Red Army was stationed at Guangnan stockaded village (located at the northwestern part of Longsheng County in Guangxi) (Footnote 20) (The present Guangnan village in Pingdeng Township, Longsheng Multinational Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). One morning, when the units of the general health section assembled near the fields outside the Guangnan stockaded village to start our journey, we found out that three houses in the township were on fire. It was obvious that some people had committed arson. Commander He Cheng of the general health section ordered the garrison company to search the township. Later, seven or eight people in Red Army uniforms, who had committed the arson, were arrested. When we talked with them, we found out that they spoke with a Guangxi accent. They admitted that they were employed by the county government of Longsheng to burn citizens' houses. Each of them got a remuneration of 2 yuan every day. The first purpose was to deprive the Red Army of places to live and food to eat. The second purpose was to make residents hate the Red Army. When we asked them where they got the Red Army uniforms, they answered that their uniforms were formerly worn by Red Army soldiers and porters who had dropped out, and were later captured and killed by the county government. After that, the uniforms were worn by those who were sent to set fires and pretended to be Red Army soldiers so after their houses were burned down, the residents would bear a grudge against the Red Army. These people had burned houses and grain in several townships. Wearing Red Army uniforms, they pretended to be sick soldiers or those who had dropped out. Every day, they followed the trail of the Red Army, or pretended to be Red Army reconnaissance troops. When they learned that the Red Army was going to a certain place, they burned all the houses there.

Of course, the chief of the general health section He Cheng was not a stupid man. After hearing what these captives had said, he ordered all members of the section to carry out fire fighting. After putting out the fire, he called the residents of the township together to attend a meeting.

At the meeting, about seven or eight people, who had pretended to be Red Army soldiers and committed arson, were asked to make a confession. After that, several hundred residents immediately cuffed and kicked them. They were almost beaten to death. Suddenly, He Cheng said: "While framing the Red Army, the warlords and bureaucrats of Guangxi have brutally persecuted you so you become homeless. The Red Army helps the common people. We helped you in fire fighting. You are much to be pitied. As for those whose houses were burned, the Red Army will provide relief to them with the money we confiscated from the local tyrants. You may get the money over there. As for these fellows who committed arson, how will you deal with them?" After hearing He Cheng's speech, several hundred residents unanimously said that the seven or eight people should be executed by shooting. As a result, those guys were dragged to a place outside the township, and other people followed them. Not long after that, the residents returned to get their money from a table placed in a certain corner of a meeting place. Later, some 50 to 60 young and vigorous people approached He Cheng and said: "We want to join the Red Army." More than 100 people successively entered their names to join the Red Army.

This event convinced me that although the leader of the Guangxi troops, Bai Chongxi, was called a young Zhuge Liang, setting fires and putting the blame on the Red Army was cruel and unwise. The incident at Guangxi stockaded village would make residents hate the local authorities all the more. This could only help the Red Army win further popular support!

The Red Army continued its northwestern march from Guangnan stockaded village to Lianghekou (Footnote 21) (The present Hekou village in Piaoli Township of Longshen Multi-national Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region) and Niupishan which were located at the border of Guangxi and Hunan. The western part of this locality was Tongdao County, Hunan. It also linked with Suining in the north, and Shanjiang in the south. At that time, the main forces of the Xue and Zhou column and the Hunan troops were deployed in Bucheng, Suining, Jingxian, Huitong and other places to prevent the Red Army from marching northward to join forces with the Red Army led by He Long and Xiao Ke. The Guangxi troops were deployed along the Guangxi-Hunan border to block the southward march of the Red Army, and follow its trail. At that time, the vanguard units of the Red Army already occupied Tongdao County. They avoided the main enemy force and took advantage of its weak point to march toward Liping Prefecture in Guizhou.

The enemy troops that defended the eastern and northern parts of Guizhou were the two divisions of Hou Zhidan. Hou Zhidan was one of the three military leaders in Guizhou (Wang Jialie, You Guocai, and Hou Zhidan). Although Hou Zhidan's troops claimed to be two divisions strong, their weapons and ammunition were locally made by Chishui munitions factory. They lacked modern weapons. How could such a military strength withstand the attack of the Red Army led by Mao Zedong and Zhu De? The Red Army assaulted from several directions and seized Jinping, Liuji (Footnote 22) (The present Liuji village in Xinliu Township, Jianhe County Guizhou Province), Jianhe, and Taigong (Footnote 23) (The present Taijiang County in Guizhou Province) to enter Zhenyuan and occupy a highway linking it with Guizhou. The troops of Hou Zhidan were defeated repeatedly, and retreated to the bank of Wu Jiang. At that time, Wang Jialie's troops were stationed at Xinhuangping. After being attacked by the Red Army, they abandoned the city and fled. The Red Army had completely occupied Zhenyuan, Shibing, and Huangping.

The Red Army entered Guizhou from Hunan. It seized a lot of booty. At least one division of the troops of Hou Zhidan were disarmed, and they successfully lost the three cities of Liping, Huangping, and Zhenyuan. In particular, Zhenyuan was an important commercial center which was linked with the western part of Hunan.

The Red Army purchased a large quantity of cloth in various cities. After winning one victory after another, their morale was high. They completely rid themselves of the fatigue resulting from the march in Hunan.

People like me who were used to living in big cities in Jiangsu and Zhejiang infested with foreign adventurers could not imagine the poverty of the people in Guizhou. Those who planted crops wore unlined garments during winter, which were ragged and worn-out. Every person had "casual wear" that was sewed and mended again and again. Children had not a stitch on even in winter. The only method people used to keep out the cold was to "warm themselves by a fire." It was true that "heaven never seals off all exists." In this poor region, coal could be found everywhere. Anthracite, which cost more than 30 yuan in Shanghai, was sold for a string of 1,000 cash in the province. One silver dollar could be converted into 20 strings of 1,000 cash. When we passed by a certain village near Jianhe County, we saw an old woman and a child in unlined garments lying down by a roadside, but they were still alive. After talking with her for a while, we discovered that she was a woman from a local peasant household. After the autumn harvest, they paid local tyrants with the crops they had reaped (for land rent). They begged for their bread all day. That morning, the weather suddenly turned cold. After they got up, they had nothing to eat. Therefore, they lay down by the roadside. When we were talking with them, the leader of the Red Army, Mao Zedong, came along. We told him what the old woman had said. Hearing this, Mao took off his woollen sweater and a sheet from his luggage, and gave them to the old woman. He also ordered the cadres concerned to give her one day of rice. Smiling, she repeatedly expressed her gratitude and left.

There were many people of the Miao nationality in various counties in the eastern part of Guizhou. In the past, I had seen some pictures and reports on the Miao villages in DONGFANG ZAZHI [ORIENTAL MAGAZINE]. I saw with my own eyes the conditions of the Miao people, and lived in their homes. The Miao people call themselves members of the Miao family and call the Han people members of the Han family. Since the Han people always bullied the Miao people, fighting with weapons frequently broke out between groups of Miao people and Han people. The Miao men wore Han dress and the clothing worn by the Miao women was like that in vogue at the end of the Qing period and the early period of the Republic of China, characterized by broad brims, loose sleeves, and long gowns. The Miao language was different from that of the Han. However, the Miao people in general could speak the Han language. The Miao people were fond of fighting, and always carried sharp swords with them. In the eastern part of Guizhou Province, the Miao people and the Han people coexisted for a long time. The Miao people lived in various places outside the cities. Some Miao people lived together with the Han people. Their houses were made of wood, and the roofs were covered with hay or the bark of pine trees. Wooden fences were put around the houses. The Miao people lived on corn, or sometimes on rice. But they did not store rice. They put their unhusked rice in the storehouses built on tree branches. When they wanted to eat rice, they first had to thresh it.

Once the Red Army entered Guizhou, it did everything possible to carry out activities among the Miao people. The Miao people supported the Red Army because they were influenced by its propaganda of advocating national equality, emancipating the Miao people, and opposing the oppression of the Miao people by Guizhou warlords. It also encouraged the Han people living in the Miao region to confiscate the property and rice of those district chiefs who frequently bullied the poor Miao people, and distribute them among Han people and the Miao people. The Red Army also distributed the rifles and pistols seized from the civilian corps among the Miao people in order to arm them. The Red Army not only avoided clashes with the Miao people, but also took their interests into consideration.

For example, when the Red Army was in Liping, the Political Department issued circulars to various units, ordering them to strictly observe discipline in the Miao region. Each and every soldier of the Red Army was also asked to give one thing to the Miao families.

The poor people of the Han and Miao nationalities in general in Guizhou were truly influenced by the propaganda of the Red Army. When Xiao Ke entered the western part of Hunan from the border of the province, he went through Guizhou Province. He made a good impression on the local Han and Miao people. Therefore, when the Red Army led by Mao Zedong and Zhu De arrived in the region, the Miao people did not flee. On the contrary, a great number of local people joined the Red Army. They sometimes asked when the Red Army would "give peace to the people." With the help of the people of the Han and Miao nationalities, the Red Army never starved in these poor regions.

The reason the poor people of the Han and Miao nationalities in Guizhou supported the policy of the Red Army was due not only to the activities of the Red Army, but also to the evil deeds of the local corrupt officials, tyrants, and evil gentry. The oppression of the Guizhou people by warlords was hard to imagine for people living in Zhejiang. Able-bodied men were subjected to conscription. Exorbitant taxes and levies were imposed on them. They were forced to plant tobacco seedlings (Footnote 24) (Opium). Peasants led a hard life. They toiled all the year round without enough to eat. On the eve of the Red Army entering Guizhou Province, Hou Zhidan had already twice collected money for "suppressing the Red bandits." Since the troops harmed rather than protected the people, this actually helped the communists win popular support.

In Guizhou, apart from seeing with my own eyes the poverty of the local people, I also encountered three things which people living along the Chang Jiang valley could never experience. 1) Opium was planted everywhere; 2) there was some drizzle almost every day; and 3) there were high mountains everywhere in the province. There was no level land like that in Hunan and Jiangxi, not to mention plains like those in Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces. The geographical conditions of Guizhou were described as: "Sunshine never lasts more than 3 days, and there is no level land more than 3 li in length. Money owned by the people never exceeds 3 fen." Such a description was in accord with facts. During my stay in Guizhou Province for 2 months, there were less than 3 sunny days.

The battle of the Wu Jiang was the first fierce battle fought by the Red Army after entering Guizhou. At that time, Hou Zhidan's troops guarded the northern bank of the Wu Jiang, whereas the Red Army had occupied the two cities of Yuqing and Wengan, and was marching toward Houchang (Footnote 25) (The present Chaotang Township in Wengan County, Guizhou Province). Houchang was one of the four main townships in the northern part of Guizhou with developed commerce. When I arrived in Houchang, the township had already been occupied by the Red Army for 3 days. I arrived at the township on New Year's Day of the solar calendar. Notices and slogans of the Red Army were put up everywhere. Every Red Army soldier got special allowances for the New Year. The business volume of shops and peddlars increased 300 percent because of this. Most local residents could describe how "Army Commander Xiao" (the Red Army units led by Xiao Ke) passed by Houchang. At that time, due to the fact that the Red Army had not succeeded in driving out Hou's troops deployed at the northern bank of the Wu Jiang, the rear-guard units temporarily stayed in Houchang. The next day, an old man came. He brought with him a sick person. When we talked with them, the sick man said that he was a native of Lianhua in Jiangxi, and that when the Red Army units led by Xiao Ke passed by the area, he was ill. He was entrusted to the care of a local resident. Since he was recovering from the illness, he was willing to follow the Red Army units led by Mao Zedong and Zhu De. Therefore, the old man brought him to the headquarters. This made me feel that the Red Army soldiers had been well trained by the Communist Party, and that they fully trusted it.

On the 3d day, our troops marched to Jiangjie He located near the Wu Jiang. Arriving at the bank of the river, I truly felt that the Wu Jiang was a natural military barrier. High mountains and precipices could be found at both sides of the river. The river was much broader than the Xiang Jiang, and its flow was rapid with a current velocity of 2 to 3 mite per second. (Footnote 26) (Mite means meter, a measurement unit of the metric system.) Without using any boats, the Red Army built a floating bamboo bridge. People could walk across the bridge without carrying any load. The distance between each person on the bridge had to be one mite. Later, the Red Army seized a boat which was used to carry radio communication facilities and horses. When I was walking across the bridge and saw the rapid flow of the river, I felt fearful. There were high mountains on the northern bank of the river. The troop was led by Hou-built defense works at the strategic locations, which were difficult to cross. All these could be clearly seen.

Seven Red Army soldiers and two soldiers of the Guizhou troops, who had been wounded during the battle of Wu Jiang, were carried by the stretcher team of the general health section. When I was treating them, a slightly wounded soldier told me the whole course of the battle of the Wu Jiang.

While the troops led by Hou were defending the northern bank of the river by using their fortifications, the Red Army soldiers moved toward the river bank under the cover of the trees and bamboo forest at dawn. The Red Army used machine guns and mortars to shell the northern bank of the river. Hou's units returned fire. However, their portable machine guns and submachine guns (Footnote 27) (A kind of light machine gun with many small holes on the barrel) were locally made by Chishui munitions factory and had a limited firing range. The bullets could not reach the southern bank. Therefore, after making several bamboo rafts, the Red Army pushed toward the river bank. Some soldiers from the engineering company and infantry company forged the river by making use of the bamboo rafts. However, due to the swift current, the first two rafts were washed away by the water. But the Red Army did not lose heart. They made use of six or seven rafts again to cross the river. Six of them reached the northern bank. The Red Army soldiers leaped to the river bank to strike at the soldiers of Hou's units, who were in the fortifications. Later, the defense works were occupied by the Red Army. Hou's soldiers retreated to the fortifications halfway up the mountain, and shot downward. Just then, when the Red Army soldiers were holding fast to their positions around the fortifications, their bamboo rafts crossed the river one after another from the southern bank. Three hours later, some soldiers of the Red Army suddenly appeared at a location 12 li away from the upper reaches of the river to launch a sneak attack on a certain unit of Hou's troops. After that, they hit the enemy troops at the lower reaches from the flank, and launched a surprise attack on the enemy rear guards by making a detour. In that way, some of the enemy units laid down their weapons and surrendered, and some other units broke out of the encirclement to retreat to Tuanxi (Footnote 28) (A township of Zunyi County, Guizhou Province) and Zunyi. While building a bridge at the other side of the river, the Red Army pursued and attacked the enemy. Liu Bocheng, the Red Army officer who commanded the battle of Wu Jiang, was a famous officer in Sichuan. He had defeated Wu Peifu (Footnote 29) (Wu Peifu, 1874-1939, was a native of Penglai in Shandong Province. He was a leader of the Hebei faction of the northern warlords), and enjoyed great prestige among the units of the Sichuan troops. He joined the Communist Party in Sichuan. After the split of the KMT and CPC, he led the Sichuan troops to stage an uprising in Luzhou.

After the Red Army had crossed the Wu Jiang, the remaining units of Hou's troops could no longer resist its attack. After occupying Tuanxi, the Red Army followed up a victory with hot pursuit. It covered a distance of 200 li, and kept on marching and attacking the enemy. It eventually occupied Zunyi City at 0300 on the 3d day. In the meantime, other Red Army units attacked and occupied Meitan and Suiyang from the right side. The Red Army in the middle route occupied Songkanchang (Footnote 30) (The present Songkan Township in Tongzi County, Sichuan Province) near Tongzi City and the Sichuan-Guizhou border, and defeated Li Ze's brigade of Sichuan troops. It seemed as if the Red Army would push on to Chongqing in the flush of victory. At that time, rich and powerful people in Chongqing were anxious and disturbed, the Huishui (Footnote 31) (Huishui means remittance fee.) for sending money from Sichuan to Shanghai increased by 70 percent. This showed the worries and uneasiness of the rich. However, after eliminating Hou's troops, the Red Army did not continue to advance. The Red Army units had a rest and built up their strength in Zunyi, Tongzi, Meitan, and Suiyang.

The Red Army made magnificent achievements after entering the northern part of Guizhou:

The first achievement was: The two divisions of Hou Zhidan were defeated, and most of their weapons and ammunition were seized. This considerably replenished the ammunition depots of the Red Army. Because of such an adequate supply of weapons and ammunition, the Red Army was able to defeat the two divisions of Wang Jialie and the two divisions of Xue Yue of the Nanjing troops in charge of chasing and suppressing the bandits when it reentered Zunyi City. A great number of such small "warlords" were eliminated during the operation of "suppressing the red bandits." They savagely oppressed the people. However, when they were attacked, they retreated in defeat and fled in panic. They supplied the Red Army with weapons and ammunition. Therefore, the Red Army called military leaders of Nanjing and other provinces, chiefs of the transportation corps, and Chiang Kai-shek, general chief.

The second achievement was: After resting for 12 days to build up its strength in the northern part of Guizhou, the Red Army recovered from the fatigue suffered during the war in southern parts of Hunan, and was in great spirits. In subsequent wars, its combat effectiveness was not weakened at all. On the contrary, it was doughty as a dragon and lively as a tiger.

At that time, the reason the Red Army could have a 12-day rest was because the units of Xue and Zhou of Nanjing's suppression army rushed to Guiyang to gain the control of the city. They were unwilling to attack the Red Army for fear of suffering losses. However, small warlords like Hou Zhidan and Wang Jialie had to bear their tragic lot. Xue Yue used their troops to resist the attack of the Red Army. He made use of the Red Army to eradicate their military strength. When their troops were completely defeated, they were either executed, or forced to retire from the political scene. No wonder the authorities of various provinces sighed with feeling and said: Bows are cast aside once the birds are gone. They were more afraid of the Nanjing troops than of the Red Army. This was because the Red Army carried out its activities only in villages and remote districts, but the Nanjing troops were perfectly entitled to seize the territory under the control of these local authorities. They would send local troops to attack the Red Army so that they suffered losses. This situation was what a common saying described as: "Axe hitting chisel, and chisel hitting wood." Xue Yue was ordered to chase and suppress the bandits. This was not a task which he was willing to undertake.

The third achievement of the Red Army was the winning of the support of the people. The discipline of the Red Army in the eastern part of Guizhou was better than that of Hou Zhidan's troops. The news spread throughout Guizhou Province.

When the Red Army came, businessmen and citizens of Zunyi City did not flee. Members of the orphans' vocational training institute, students, and poor people gathered to welcome the Red Army, waving flags and posters. Words and phrases welcoming Chairman Mao of the soviet government and commander in chief of the Red Army, Zhu De, were written on the posters. Mao Zedong and Zhu De entered Zunyi City amid shouting of slogans and setting off firecrackers. In a square at the city gate, they shook hands with various representatives one after another. After that, they spoke briefly to the masses who welcomed them, expressing thanks for their welcome. They also said that the Red Army was willing to relieve the people of Guizhou Province of their sufferings.

On the 3d day after entering the city, the Red Army held a rally at the sports field of the Third Secondary School, which was personally attended by Mao Zedong and Zhu De. About 10,000 workers, peasants, students and businessmen, who were influenced by propaganda, participated in the meeting, holding banners. Zhu De delivered a speech on the three main rules of discipline and the eight points for attention of the Red Army, stressing that the Red Army was willing to unite with people and troops from various quarters throughout the country to resist Japan. In his speech, Mao Zedong said that the Red political power would not levy exorbitant taxes and levies on the people, and that it would carry out general elections, resist Japan, and so forth.

Such Red Army propaganda greatly influenced the people in Guizhou Province. The Red Army announced the establishment of a revolutionary committee at the rally. A score of students, workers, peasants, and businessmen were elected members of the committee, and invited to deliver speeches. Some of them were members of the educational field. A few days later, teams composed of several hundred people, which were in charge of the struggle against payment of levies, were set up. They voluntarily ferreted out corrupt officials, and confiscated their property. They beat gongs to attract the masses to spread leaflets among them. Several thousand of people gathered in the courtyard of the county government office to wait for the distribution of the "clothes of the local tyrants."

While carrying out the propaganda, the Red Army recruited new soldiers. In a period of 12 days, 4,000 to 5,000 people joined the Red Army. They were natives of Sichuan, Guizhou, and Yunnan, or ex-servicemen. Since they were familiar with the local situation in Sichuan, Guizhou, and Yunnan, their participation helped the Red Army a lot. The fact that Mao Zedong and Zhu De could fight in one place after another in the northern part of Guizhou was due to the efforts of these people.

The Red Army handled matters in a prompt and effective manner. I never saw this in the KMT troops. On the 2d day after entering Zunyi City, a clothing factory, machinery repair plant, and Army provisions factory were established. New soldiers got their uniforms very soon, and broken weapons were repaired very rapidly.

There were about 300 or so wounded soldiers in the general health section. After resting in that period, they recovered from illness and left the hospital. Commander in Chief Zhu De of the Red Army personally went to wards of the general health section to visit wounded soldiers, and had a 30-minute talk with wounded soldiers who had taken part in the battle of Wu Jiang. Two soldiers of Hou Zhidan's troops, who were wounded in the battle of Wu Jiang, were taken in by the general health section, and provided with medical treatment. Zhu De also had a brief talk with them, asking them to have a good rest.

When I was working with the Army, I toured the whole City of Zunyi in my leisure time. Zunyi was located in a communications hub of the northern part of Guizhou. It was linked with a highway leading to Songkanchang at the border of Sichuan in the north.

Going southward from Zunyi and crossing the Wu Jiang, one could reach Guiyang. Zunyi was an important port in Guizhou linking up with Chongqing in Sichuan. Due to the fact that it was located at the border of Sichuan, customs and business practice in the city were closely connected with those of Sichuan Province. Zunyi City was divided into old and new parts. The new part was a business region, whereas the old part was a district of government offices and residential quarters. There was a river separating the two parts of the city, and a bridge over the river. Government offices and temples were fully occupied by the Red Army soldiers. It was reported that the general headquarters of the Red Army was located in the mansion of Bo Huizhang, a division commander of the Guizhou troops. Mao Zedong and Zhu De also lived in the mansion. There were five or six boys' and girls' secondary schools in the entire Zunyi City. The Red Army did not station troops in these schools to show that it attached importance to education. At that time, classes had not yet begun in those schools. The Red Army paid special attention to young students, and sent people to organize anti-Japanese national salvation associations and societies of the friends of the Red Army, and others among those young students. On the first day when the Red Army entered the city, a score of boy and girl students, who were mostly secondary school students, held banners and delivered speeches to support the Red Army. When I passed by the No 3 County Secondary School, I saw a student basketball team and a Red Army basketball team playing a match. The Red Army had good ball game skills, because it always attached importance to physical training. The Red Army did everything possible to encourage the young students. This showed that they paid great attention to them.

There was one thing which was still fresh in my mind. When the Red Army was establishing the Revolutionary Committee in Zunyi, Li Xiaoxia, a 20-year-old girl student, delivered a speech at the rally to express her sympathy for the Red Army. Later, she was elected one of the members of the Revolutionary Committee. She was good at promoting social intercourse among local students. When the Red Army withdrew from Zunyi, Li Xiaoxia also followed the Army and left the city.

When I was walking around the entire city, I found out that there were three kinds of shops whose business was brisk. 1) Stores which sold foreign goods: their overshoes, towels and other things were sold out. 2) Bookstores: there were three bookstores in Zunyi City, which sold magazines published in Shanghai and Nanjing. Their new and old books, pencils, notebooks etc were also sold out. 3) Eating houses: business volume of cooked noodle and bread shops and restaurants increased by 300 percent. Eating houses in Zunyi City were good at cooking Sichuan dishes. I once went to a restaurant with two or three friends to eat some Sichuan dishes such as twice-cooked pork, chicken cooked with chili seasoning, and various kinds of pickled vegetables. The prices were cheap.

Therefore, when the Red Army was in Zunyi, shops ran their business as usual, because paper money issued by the Red Army could be converted daily into silver dollars. The Red Army confiscated the salt business run by Wang Jialie, provincial chairman of Guizhou, which was valued at tens of thousands of yuan. Wang Jialie also ordered Baijinlong brand cigarettes from Shanghai's Nanyang Tobacco Company, which were valued at 50,000 yuan. These cigarettes were originally going to be given as presents to soldiers of Xue Yue's troops during the Lunar New Year. These cigarettes were also confiscated by the Red Army. Some of the salt and cigarettes were distributed among poor people in Zunyi and Tongzi Cities, and the rest were sold. Every yuan of paper money issued by the Red Army could buy 7 jin of salt, or 4 tins of Baijinlong brand cigarettes. The price was cheaper than that in Pingxi. With revenues from salt and cigarettes, the Red Army could convert the paper money it issued into silver dollars. After resting for 12 days in the northern part of Guizhou, the entire Red Army continued its journey. It passed by Tongzi and Xishui, and crossed the Chishui River from Tucheng. After that, it advanced southward toward Sichuan.

Tongzi County was a gate in the northern part of Guizhou leading to Sichuan. The county town was not big, only covering a width of 1 li or so from the north to the south. But there was one characteristic of the county town which I could never forget. Tongzi County town was the hometown of the military and government leaders of Guizhou Province over the years. A score of beautiful and imposing Western-style houses were built. All these Western-style houses belonged to important military and government leading figures of Guizhou. However, numerous crude thatched cottages were built around these Western-style houses. Private cars were parked in front of the houses of these important military and government leading figures. They could conveniently travel to Zunyi and the border areas of Sichuan. However, the poor people who worked hard all the year round with baskets carried on their backs, had not enough food to eat. The gap between the rich and the poor was so conspicuous.

We started our journey from Tongzi, went through Liangcun, and eventually arrived at Tucheng (Footnote 32) (A township in the present Xishui County, Guizhou Province). We advanced along a broad and steep road. Some parts of the road were accessible to cars. But it was the most difficult road in China for cars to traverse. When I walked along the road, it was snowing. The road was wet and slippery. It was truly the most difficult journey. When I was climbing a mountain near the west city gate of Tongzi, I saw Mao Zedong, leader of the Red Army, climbing up the mountain with a stick. His legs and knees were all covered with mud. Probably the road was too slippery, and he slipped and fell down into a mire.

The Red Army built floating bridges from Tucheng and Taipingdu across the Chishui River. After crossing the river, it marched toward the southern part of Gulin. It entered Sichuan from Guizhou in this way. Later, the Red Army continued to march westward journey in Hunan and Guizhou Provinces. In particular, the Lianghe pass was the most difficult of access. The distance from Lianghe pass to Weixin County was 30 li. There was a ditch in the middle of the two sides of the cliffs. There was a small path at one side of the cliff. If only a length of 5 chi of the small path had been obstructed, it would have been impossible for the Red Army to pass through. After encountering numerous difficulties, the Red Army eventually arrived at Weixin County of Yunnan (its old name was Zhaxi, which was located at the Yunnan-Guizhou border). The Red Army arrived at Weixin County on the 3d day of the 1st month of the old Chinese calendar. (Footnote 33) (Some people said it arrived on the 6th day of the 1st month, namely, 9 February 1935.) It took a rest for 1 day in the county. However, it was extremely cold, and it snowed hard at night.

The issue of nationalities in Yunnan merited attention. Long Yun (Footnote 34) (Long Yun, 1887-1962, was a native of Zhaotong County. He was once chairman of the Yunnan Provincial government of the KMT). was a person of Yi nationality. Middle-ranking and senior military and government officers in Yunnan were people of the Yi nationality. The Han people were oppressed. Before the Red Army arrived in Weixin, a person, who was a graduate of Beijing University and a former magistrate of a certain county, met the leaders of the Red Army in a village. He said that he was willing to lead the local civil corps, and call on the civil corps of other counties to help the Red Army attack Yunnan in order to free the Han people from oppression. When the Red Army was in the region, it put forward a slogan of the emancipation of nationalities in order to win the sympathy of the people of various nationalities, such as Han, Hui, Miao, and others. Later, the Red Army sent the 9th Army Group led by Luo Binghui (a native of Yunnan who served in the Yunnan troops for a long time. He was a subordinate of Zhu Peide. He was an underground Communist Party member. When he was a commander of the civil corps in Jian of Jiangxi Province, he led several hundred members of the civil corps to join the Red Army.) to carry out activities in Bejie, Xuanwei, and Dongchuan. The news that 5,000 to 6,000 people from the Han, Hui, and Miao had joined the Red Army shocked all of Yunnan Province. When the news spread among people in Yunnan that Army Commander Luo, a native of Yunnan, would come back to drive out Long Yun, Luo's prestige was greatly enhanced.

Although the Red Army opposed the oppression of Han, Hui, and Miao people by the Yi nationality, it gave publicity to the policy of equality among nationalities, opposing Han chauvinism, and so forth among people of the Yi nationality in general.

The Red Army originally planned to continue to advance westward from Weixin, cross the Niulan Jiang, and enter Sichuan. However, after taking a 1-day rest in Weixin, it retreated eastward suddenly. It was probably difficult to cross the river at that time, and the Red Army would rather not take the risk. The Red Army's sudden return to the northern part of Guizhou was totally unexpected by the Sichuan and Guizhou troops. The Sichuan troops were originally advancing side by side with the Red Army in the northern part of the province. They planned to turn west to pursue and attack the Red Army, and swiftly advance toward the river bank to block its crossing of the river. However, the Red Army suddenly returned to the eastern part of the Chi He from Weixin. When the Sichuan troops discovered this, the Red Army had already crossed the Chishuihe River and occupied Tongzi and Loushan Pass. Such stratagems of mobile warfare adopted by the Red Army would very often defeat the enemy by a surprise move. This also showed the strong points of Mao Zedong and Zhu De. Therefore, in the Red Army, Mao Zedong was also called Zhuge Liang.

On its way back to Tongzi and Zunyi in the northern part of Guizhou Province, the Red Army won a very great victory. This was one of its greatest victories since it broke out of the encirclement in Jiangxi. All this should be attributed to the well-planned operations of the Red Army. On the day when the Red Army occupied Tongzi, it started reorganizing and outfitting the field hospital. I was assigned by He Cheng to go to the field hospital to take in wounded soldiers. That afternoon, the Red Army engaged the two division of Wang Jialie's troops which came from Zunyi to attack the Loushan Pass. Wang's troops launched several attacks on the Loushan Pass, but they were repulsed by the defending troops of the Red Army. Later, the Red Army sent its main forces to outflank Wang's troops and attack and occupy Banqiao township near the highway linking Zunyi and Tongzi, which were areas to the rear of Wang's troops. The route of retreat of Wang's troops was thus cut off. Just then, the defending troops of the Red Army at Loushan Pass also attacked Wang's troops from a commanding height, Wang's troops could no longer withstand the attack, and were completely surrounded. Most soldiers of the two divisions laid down their arms and surrendered, and a small number of soldiers escaped in disorder. The Red Army vigorously pursued and attacked the enemy. It occupied both the new and old section, of Zunyi City at 0300. It was reported that when Wang Jialie fled, he only took with him division commander Bo Huizhang, and several others of his entourage. After the battle, Wang Jialie lost everything. Not long after that, he left Guizhou Province to travel around. He was forced to relinquish power.

The field hospital then followed the Army and entered Zunyi City. However, a major battle occurred again the next morning. The two divisions of Xue Yue's troops led by Wu Qiwei advanced northward from Guiyang to attack the Red Army. They crossed the Wu Jiang in order to reinforce Wang's troops. However, Wang's troops were defeated with unexpected speed. When Wu's troops arrived at Landandeng (60 li from Zunyi), they met Wang who was leading his troops in retreat. Wang reported the defeat of his troops. Wu hurriedly advanced toward Zunyi City. At Shilipu in the southern part of Zunyi City (about 20 li from the city), Wu's troops met with the 3d Army Group of the Red Army led by Peng Dehuai. Peng Dehuai personally commanded his troops to fight the enemy at the battle line. After 1 hour of battle, Peng Dehuai stated with certainty that most soldiers of the two divisions of Wu's troops would be disarmed that afternoon. Not long after that, the 1st Army Group led by Lin Biao took a shortcut to drive into the areas behind Wu's troops.

At 1200, the two divisions of Wu's troops were completely encircled. All the useful positions around had already been seized by the Red Army, so, realizing that the situation was pretty hot for him, Wu ordered his troops to retreat. However, the Red Army soldiers were approaching, shouting orders to the enemy to lay down their arms. Most of Wu's troops laid down their weapons and surrendered. Wu led two regiments to break through the encirclement line of the Red Army in the south, and to retreat along a highway toward the Wu Jiang. It was fortunate that the floating bridge over the Wu Jiang had not yet been demolished. Therefore, Wu's troops could use it to cross the river. However, the Red Army fought very bravely. Some of its soldiers marched southward along the highway in pursuit of Wu's troops. Other soldiers made a rapid march along the mountain road at the left. Such rapid marching was a strong point of the Red Army. It traversed 100 li of mountain road while making a rapid march at night. When the Red Army soldiers reached the river bank, Wu himself had already crossed the river. But more than 1,800 of his soldiers were still crossing. Knowing that the Red Army had already arrived at the river bank, he issued an order from the southern bank of the river to cut off the ropes of the floating bridge for fear that the bridge would be seized by the Red Army, and that the Red Army would cross the river to press on toward Guiyang. The bridge was washed away by the swift current. The Red Army could not cross the river. But more than 1,800 enemy troops laid down their arms at the northern bank of the Wu Jiang. It was reported that most of the weapons and ammunition of Wu's troops at the northern side of the river were all seized by the Red Army. After the battle, Zunyi City was packed with the Red Army soldiers and captives from the Guizhou and Nanjing troops. The Red Army put these captives in a special division. Each and every captive got 3 yuan as a fee for laying down his arms. Communist Party members were specially assigned to carry out propaganda among them. I later heard that 80 percent of these captives were encouraged to join the Red Army. Those who did not want to join the Red Army got traveling expenses, and were escorted to the cordon of the Red Army. Zhu De personally summoned those captives, who were formerly middle-ranking and senior officers, and talked with them. He gave them words of comfort in every way. He stressed that the Red Army advocated a war of resistance against Japan in order to rescue the country, and hoped that all army men throughout the country would closely cooperate. Those officers, who had been captured by the Red Army, could stay in the Red Army if they liked. As for those who were unwilling to stay, they were given traveling expenses, and escorted out of the Red Army's regions. This was truly a new method adopted by the Red Army. Therefore, those captive officers generally thought after their release that they had escaped by the skin of their teeth.

The victory of the Red Army truly shocked the Nanjing troops and warlords in Sichuan, Yunnan, and Hunan. Xue Yue and Zhou Hunyuan thought that the Sichuan troops should not take the risk of making further marches, and that new arrangements were needed. Several divisions of the Hunan troops, which were formerly responsible for attacking Xiao Ke's troops, were moved to defend the eastern bank of the Wu Jiang. According to a report of victory later issued by the Red Army, the troops of He Long and Xiao Ke completely destroyed a brigade of the Hunan troops led by Chen Quzhen, and all the enemy soldiers laid down their arms in surrender. After the victory of the battle of Zunyi, Red Army soldiers and junior officers liked to fight with the troops of Xue Yue and Zhou Hunyuan. They said that it was not interesting at all to fight with the troops of Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guizhou because they were poorly armed. However, fighting with the Nanjing troops, they could get new weapons and sufficient supplies of ammunition. What a heroic spirit!

The reason why the Red Army could continuously defeat the troops of Wang Jialie and Wu Qiwei was that the Red Army had indomitable fighting capability, and that soldiers of the Red Army united as one. When You Guocai entered Tongzi City for the second time, the Red Army Political Department assigned a secretary in charge of the children group to work in a local workteam (he was specially assigned to carry out activities among children). At that time, he was only 13. He came with the Army from Jiangxi.

When You's troops seized a mountain near the Lushan Pass, he lost contact with the Red Army. This 13-year-old child was neither afraid nor disappointed. He kept on climbing the mountain day and night. Eventually, he joined the Red Army again after 2 days and 3 nights. I later heard that when the child was climbing the mountain, he could not find even a single drop of water. When he was extremely thirsty, he put his urine in a cup and drank it in order to quench his thirst. This story showed the staunch unity of the Red Army soldiers. The victory of the Red Army should also be attributed to the efforts of a great number of new soldiers recruited from Guizhou Province. Before joining the Red Army, these people detested the exorbitant taxes and levies imposed on them by the Guizhou Provincial authorities. They led a hard life because of this. Other Red Army soldiers said that these people fought very bravely in the battles. These Red Army soldiers from Guizhou Province were very familiar with the local geographical conditions. They repeatedly led the Red Army soldiers to take a shortcut to outflank the troops of Wang and Wu from behind. The number of the Red Army were not drastically reduced despite repeated battles, because those who were familiar with local geographical conditions joined the Red Army. Wherever it went, it encouraged local people to join the troops. These people helped the Red Army a lot in the battles.

After the victory of the battle of Zunyi, the Red Army stationed massive forces in Yaxi (60 li away from the southwestern part of Zunyi City). It repeatedly attempted to lure the troops of Xue and Zhou and the Sichuan troops into a decisive battle. However, the troops of Xue and Zhou and the Sichuan troops led by Guo Xunqi, Liao Ze, and Pan Zuo were very cautious. They avoided launching attacks recklessly. Although the Red Army repeatedly lured them toward a decisive battle on the banks of the Chishuihe, the troops of Xue and Zhou refrained from making a further march. They just built their own fortifications more cautiously. Since the Red Army was at the end of its tether, it was compelled to make a rapid march to cross the Wu Jiang stealthily to press its way southward to threaten Guiyang. At that time, Guiyang was truly shocked. Later, when I was in Shanghai, I learned from newspapers that the airport at Guiyang was occupied by the Red Army, and that more than 20 airplanes were destroyed, and so forth.

I guessed that after advancing southward and crossing the Wu Jiang, the Red Army intended to enter Sichuan. However, it deliberately advanced eastward and pretended to attack Wengan and Huangping. When the Nanjing troops moved eastward, and the Yunnan left the province to march toward Guiyang, the Red Army suddenly turned northwest in the direction of Guiyang. It passed through an area between Guiyang and Longli, and pretended to attack Guiyang. Just then, the main forces of the Red Army occupied various counties such as Dingpan (Footnote 35) (The present Huishui County in Guizhou Province), Changzai (Footnote 36) (The present Changshun County in Guizhou Province), Ziyun, Zhenfeng, Anlong, Xingyi, and others, and crossed the Beipan Jiang. Such operations of the Red Army were beyond the expectation of Chiang Kai-shek. When the four brigades of the Yunnan troops entered Guizhou, the Red Army took this advantage to enter Yunnan without encountering any resistance, because the Nanjing, Sichuan, Guizhou, and Yunnan troops were far away from the Red Army. Without meeting any resistance, the Red Army disarmed a small number of Yunnan troops, occupied many cities in the province, and cut off highways linking Kunming with various localities. In such a way, the Red Army easily crossed the Jinsha Jiang.

After the Red Army had entered Yunnan, there were two interesting events which later became a standing joke of Red Army soldiers when they were talking about everyday matters:

1. When the Red Army was surrounding Qujing and pressing forward toward Malong, it intercepted the car of an adjutant of Xue Yue from Kunming.

Military maps and some famous Yunnan Baiyao (precious medicine for curing bullet wounds) were found out in the car. According to the captive adjutant, he was sent by Xue Yue to enter Yunnan Province to meet Long Yun. Two days before, Xue Yue had sent a telegram to Long Yun, asking him to send military maps of Yunnan, because he did not have any. After receiving the telegram, Long Yun originally intended to dispatch the maps by plane. However, the next day, the pilot got sick. He later changed his mind and sent the maps by car. However, Qujing had already been surrounded by the Red Army and the highway was also cut off. Long Yun sent a full car load of Baiyao, Xuanwei hams from Yunnan, and some famous Puer tea. However, the car was intercepted by the Red Army 20 li away from Qujing. The guards and adjutant in the car were disarmed. The military maps, which Xue Yue never received, were used by the Red Army to cross the Jinsha Jiang. Red Army soldiers enjoyed the use of the Baiyao, hams, and tea. Whenever the Red Army soldiers talked about this, they were convulsed with laughter.

They said that during the period of the Three Kingdoms, when Liu Bei entered Sichuan, Zhang Song presented him with a map. When the Red Army entered Sichuan, Long Yun also presented it with a map.

2. When the Red Army was entering Songming City and Guandu (Footnote 37) (A district in Kunming City, Yunnan), it was welcomed by county magistrates and local military and police leaders. This was not because these leaders had gone over to the Red bandits. Yunnan Province is located in the southwestern part of China. Although people in the province had heard about the activities of the Red Army in Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, and Sichuan, according to official reports, the Red Army were "bad bandits." In the eyes of the people in Yunnan, "bandits" were those who were shabbily dressed, lived in privation, and had no new weapons. They also robbed the common people. However, when the Red Army reached the area, people heard nothing about the army soldiers robbing the people. In the meantime, they were disciplined, carried out fair deals, and their paper money could be converted into silver dollars. They were also neatly dressed, and had many new weapons. The Yunnan troops were not armed with such new weapons. The local officials and gentry mistook these Red Army soldiers for the Nanjing troops, because they were much better than the Yunnan troops in terms of discipline, appearance, and bearing. But, if they were not Nanjing troops, who were they? Therefore, they lined up to welcome them. They also gave all the Army provisions and pay, which they collected in accordance with the instruction issued by the provincial government, to the Red Army. In the meantime, they also provided these "Nanjing troops" with several hundred porters and guides. The Red Army took advantage of this mistake, and claimed to be Nanking troops. It accepted all the army provisions and the porters, and attended a sumptuous dinner hosted by the local authorities. At the dinner, the county magistrate, section chiefs, commanders of the local civil corps, and local gentry were introduced to the Red Army one after another. These local leaders also invited officers of the "Nanjing troops" to deliver speeches. Then, the Red Army leaders stood up, and shouted: "Comrades!" The Red Army soldiers who had lain in ambush appeared suddenly to keep watch on these local leaders. A Red Army leader then announced: "We are not Nanjing troops of the KMT. We are the Central Red Army." By then, these local leaders were already scared out of their wits. However, the Red Army did not make things difficult for them. Their leader reassured the local leaders and asked them to leave.

The Red Army immediately asked the porters and guides to attend a meeting. Red Army leaders announced that they were not Nanjing troops, and that they were the Red Army. They also asked those porters whether they were employed, or were pressed into service. They answered with one voice that they were pressed into forced labor, and got no wages at all, and that their wives and children were starving to death since they had left their homes.

The Red Army leaders immediately announced: "The Yunnan warlords and bureaucrats made you suffer. Now, the Red Army has decided to send you home. However, those who are willing to work for the Red Army as porters can each get 5 jiao of silver dollars per day. The Red Army will give them half a month's wages as family allowances." Whereupon more than 90 percent of the porters expressed their willingness to be employed by the Red Army. Only 10 or so wanted to go home. The Red Army gave each of them one yuan for traveling expenses.

After we traveled through Yunnan, the province left a very good impression on me. Some Red Army people originally thought that since the province was located in the plateau in the western part of China, that there would be numerous high mountains. The roads were difficult of access, the weather was extremely bad, and natural resources were miserably meager. However, after entering Yunnan, we found that there was a vast plain in the northeastern part of the province despite its elevated land. When we entered Yunnan from Guizhou, we had to travel across elevated land. However, the topography of Yunnan was much better than that of Guizhou. It was similar to that in the southern part of Hunan. We climbed up numerous mountains when marching in Yunnan. But when we reached the summit of a mountain, there was a plain in front of us. It was unnecessary for us to climb down the mountain.

After traversing the plain, there was again a mountain in front of us. After climbing the mountain, we faced a plain again. We were gradually moving upward. Every county or township was surrounded by a plain covering an area of more than 10 to several hundred li. These plains were locally called Kunming Bazi, Dali Bazi, Qijing Bazi, and so forth. Bazi meant the flatland around a county town. Due to the fact that the roads in Yunnan were smooth and wide, mule-drawn carts could be used to advance northward. The province had a better transport service. It was easier to build highways in the province than in Guizhou, because in Guizhou tunnels had to be dug while building highways. Therefore, highways in Yunnan were developed earlier.

The fine weather in Yunnan was incomparably better than that in Guizhou. In Guizhou, "sunshine does not last more than 3 days." The temperate weather around Kunming was similar to that of Zhejiang. When we were traveling near Qujing, it was unnecessary for us to wear cotton-padded coats. However, the variations of temperature were great. At 1600 or 1700, the wind usually blew hard, and a shower fell. The weather was comparatively cold.

Yunnan had abundant resources because of its fine weather. Qujing, Malong, and the northeastern part of Yunnan abundantly produced rice and cotton. Opium, which was noted throughout the country, was planted everywhere in the province. The reason why the price for opium produced in Yunnan was higher than that produced in Guizhou and Sichuan was that seed capsules produced in Yunnan, which were as big as a fist, were bigger than those produced in Sichuan and Guizhou. However, opium was dirt-cheap in Yunnan. Half a jin of crude opium was sold at one silver dollar. When making a joke, I often said that if those opium addicts in Jiangsu and Zhejiang knew that the price of opium in Yunnan was so cheap, they would drool with envy.

Most residents in Yunnan were Han people. In addition, there were people from the Miao, Yi, and Hui nationalities. At that time, since the province was ruled by the Yi nationality, the Yi people live a better life in general. In certain regions, most village heads and district chiefs were Yi people. When I was passing by Guandu, I found an area covering some dozen li which was inhabited by the Hui people. Their customs and habits were the same as those of the Hui people in Zhejiang.

There were mosques in the area. A number of soldiers in the 5th Army Group of the Red Army were Hui people from Gansu. They had good relations with the Hui people there. The Red Army highly respected the mosques of the Hui people. Red Army leader Zhu De went personally to a mosque to talk with the leaders of the Hui people. The Red Army cultivated good relations with the Hui people. When the Red Army left the area, the Hui people lined up to see it off.

A score of Hui people joined the Red Army. After joining up, these people were put in a special Hui detachment in which they were able to continue with their native customs.

When I was living near Kunming, I found out very often that most residents over 30, men and women, had tumors on their necks (throats). About 70 to 80 percent of the residents had tumors. This was because the spring water they drank lacked iodine. The spring water of a certain mountain was undrinkable. Anyone who drank the water would have a sore throat. Therefore, when the Red Army soldiers were climbing the mountain, they did not drink the water there.

The weather, natural resources, and topography of Yunnan left a good impression on me. In addition, the province had a glorious history of staging the Yunnan uprising aimed at taking punitive action against Yuan (Footnote 38) (Yuan Shikai), and supporting the republican political system.

The purpose of the Red Army in entering Yunnan was to cross Jinsha Jiang. Therefore, it advanced along two routes in the direction of Yunnan. After occupying Zhanyi (Footnote 39) (The present Qujing City in Yunnan), Malong, Xundian, and Songming, the main forces of the Red Army pressed forward toward Kunming. Some other Red Army units were deployed near the Yunnan-Guizhou border to attract the Guizhou and Yunnan forces. They defeated the five regiments led by You Guocal, and seized large quantities of their arms and ammunition. They pushed on, flushed with victory to occupy Xuanwei City and Dongchuan City, and pressed onward to cross the Jinsha Jiang. When the main forces of the Red Army were approaching Kunming, Kunming and the whole province were shocked. However, the aim of the Red Army was not occupation, but to attract the Yunnan troops so that they would reinforce the troops in Kunming rather than marching toward the Jinsha Jiang. The Red Army originally planned to cross the Jinsha Jiang from Jiaoxidu. (Footnote 40) (Jiaoxidu was also called Jiaochedu. It is the present Jiaopingdu, which is located at the northwestern part of Luquan County.) However, to confuse the enemy pursuit troops, some Red Army units deliberately occupied Lufeng and Wuding in the west, and then advanced further west to occupy Yuanmou. They moved northward from Yuanmou to Longjie and pretended to cross the river there. Such a stratagem of luring the tiger out of the mountain did trap the enemy. Zhou Hunyuan's troops, Yunnan troops and Hunan troops, which were responsible for chasing and suppressing the bandits, marched toward Yuanmou. However, the main forces of the Red Army crossed the Jinsha Jiang from Jiaoxidu without any obstruction. The Red Army units in Longjie, which pretended to cross the river, also took a shortcut to return to Jiaoxidu. On the bank of Jinsha Jiang, the Red Army took 9 days and nights to cross the river. However, it was only after the Red Army had crossed the river to occupy Tonganzhou (Footnote 41) (The present township of Huili County in Sichuan Province) and pressed forward toward the city gate of Huilizhou (Footnote 42) (The present Huili County in Sichuan Province) that the enemy pursuit troops knew that the Red Army had crossed the river from Jiaoxidu. When the pursuit troops turned back to Jiaoxidu, all the Red Army units had already crossed the river. They destroyed all the boats and ships around. It took the Red Army units 9 days and nights to cross the river safely. It was on the afternoon of the 11th day that Zhou Hunyuan's pursuit troops approached the river bank. But the ships and boats had all been destroyed, and the Red Army soldiers were guarding the northern bank of the river from a cave. The enemy pursuit troops were not able to approach the river bank. Their efforts were in vain. The Red Army soldiers were very happy about the success of their stratagem. A new play called "Worn Straw Sandals" (Footnote 43) (The play was also called "Broken Straw Sandals.") was published in the newspaper of the Political Department of the 5th Army Group.

The play described how Chiang Kai-shek sent his troops to pursue and attack the Red Army from Jiangxi to several other provinces over a period of more than 6 months. But his efforts were in vain and yielded nothing except several pairs of "worn straw sandals" thrown away by the Red Army. At that time, the Red Army was truly in exultant spirits.

Crossing the Jinsha Jiang was a most dangerous operation for the Red Army, of which it was proud. As far as I knew, how the Red Army crossed the river was not accurately and sufficiently reported by newspapers in Shanghai and other cities. I personally crossed the Jinsha Jiang. This was a great event in my life, which I would never forget.

The Jinsha Jiang was located at the upper reaches of the Yangzi River which rose in Qinghai. That part of the river in Xikang and Yunnan Provinces was called the Jinsha Jiang. The other part of the river at the lower reaches stretching from Yunnan to Yibin (Xufu) in Sichuan was called the Yangzi Jiang. There were high mountains, sheer precipices and overhanging rocks along the banks of the Jinsha Jiang except in some places near several ferries. We advanced from Yunnan in the direction of the river for a distance of 60 li. After that, we all started going down. After covering another distance of 40 li, we arrived at Jiaoxidu. The distance from Jiaoxidu to the river bank was 20 li. There were all kinds of strange and fearful multi-peaked mountains along the road. In the glow of the setting sun, these mountains emitted golden rays. When we moved from Jiaoxidu to the river bank, we found that the mountain paths were steeper. We had to use sticks when climbing down the mountain, otherwise we faced the danger of falling into a gully. When we were making the 20 li march, it was already very hot (at the end of April by the solar calendar). There was neither grass nor trees on the way. The more we descended the mountain, the hotter we felt. When we reached the river bank, it was extremely hot. The Red Army soldiers drank cold water to their heart's content. There were only five or six houses on the river bank. The residents made their living by ferrying people across the river. Due to the fact that the weather was hot in spring and summer, and cold in autumn and winter, they lived in cave dwellings. This was the place from which Zhuge Liang, the Count of Wu, in the period of the Three Kingdoms "crossed the Lushuihe to enter a barren land." The "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" also described the hot weather at the river bank. It was a fact that of 2,000 soldiers led by Ma Dai, 1,500 died from drinking poisonous water.

There were six or seven boatmen's households on the northern bank of the river. There was also a customs station, which levied taxes on goods passing from Sichuan to Yunnan and back. It was reported that the price of the famous Yunnan opium increased by 200 percent at the other side of the river. Residents regarded the area on the northern bank of the river as the boundary of Sichuan Province. They regarded the area on the southern bank of the river as the boundary of Yunnan Province. When I was crossing the river by boat, the number of people sitting on both sides of the boat was not equal. In addition, there was a passenger standing in the middle of the boat. Therefore, the boat leaned to the north. The boatman shouted: "Sir, please turn your back to Yunnan!" This meant he asked the people standing in the middle to sit at the southern side of the boat. He then turned his face to Sichuan with his back to Yunnan. In such a way, the boat would not lean to one side. At the southern bank of the river, the boats lay at anchor at the sandy beach. However, the northern bank was surrounded with steep cliffs. A tunnel about 100 meters in length was bored through the cliffs with several openings in between. When the boat arrived at the northern bank, it docked inside the tunnel in the cliffs. After that, all the passengers walked eastward toward the customs station located on a hillside. When we were crossing the river, the tide was not yet at the flood level.

The distance from the river to the tunnel was more than 2 zhang. There were stone steps from the river bank to the tunnel.

The Jinsha Jiang was half as wide as the Huangpu Jiang. Standing at one side of the river, one could not hear a voice shouting from the other side of the river. The river swiftly flowed from west to east with a current of 4 to 5 meters per second. At the upper reaches of the rivers, there were mountains. The water flowed as if falling from waterfalls. At ordinary times, the waves were as high as 1 to 2 chi. But when it was raining and the wind blew hard, the waves would suddenly rise to 3 or 5 chi. The wind blew terribly hard near the Jinsha Jiang. When I was crossing the river the wind blew in gusts. Sand blown by the wind was dancing in the air. The thatched huts built by local residents near the caves were blown away by the wind. When I was standing in the middle of a road, the wind blew in gusts, and I fell down suddenly because I was not able to keep on my feet. We were terrified of the strong wind near the river. This only lasted half an hour. After that, the rain and wind stopped, and the sun shone again. When we asked local inhabitants about the situation, they told us that the wind and rain at the river bank only lasted half an hour on each occasion. The sun would shine again after the wind and rain stopped. This showed that the weather in the western part of China changed very drastically.

The flow of the Jinsha Jiang was very rapid. It was impossible to use a boat to cross the river. At the part between Yibin to Luzhou, wooden boats could be used. At that part of the river below Kuzhou, steamboats could be used. There were more ferry boats at the lower areas of Dongchuan and Qiaojia. Above Qiaojia, there were about 10 ferryboats or so at every ferry. At every ferry above Longjie, there were only several inflatable skin boats, which were made of animal skins. Each inflatable skin boat could only carry one passenger. This was because at the upper reaches of the river, the current was extremely swift, and there were numerous hidden reefs under the water, so wooden ships could easily be broken when they struck the reefs.

When the Red Army soldiers were crossing the river, they could not build any floating bridges. They seized six boats from the Jiaoxidu ferry and other ferries around. The bigger boats could carry 39 persons, whereas the smaller ones could only carry 11 persons. These boats were worn-out, and water seeped into the boats through their hulls. After using them, some persons were specially assigned to pour the water from the boats into the river using wooden buckets. Only thus could they be used again. It was very dangerous to cross the river in such a way. Due to the fact that the current was so rapid, these boats could only be used to cross the river 3 to 4 times per hour. Most Red Army soldiers crossed the river from this location. They crossed the river day and night. At night, wood was burned on both river banks. The flames lit up the river. The Red Army soldiers crossed the river all through the night.

Our fellow countrymen could not believe that the Red Army only used six worn-out boats to cross the river, unless they saw all this with their own eyes. But the Red Army did do so. The most important reason for the success of the Red Army in crossing the river unhurriedly and calmly was that the Nanjing troops and the Yunnan troops fell into the trap of the Red Army's stratagem of making a feint to the east and attacking in the west, and luring the tiger out of the mountains, so that all Red Army units had sufficient time to cross the river. Furthermore, it was 2 days after the Army had crossed the river that the enemy pursuit troops arrived. Therefore, only a limited number of Red Army soldiers dropped out. Another reason for this success was that the Red Army units were well organized when crossing the river. Just think if they had not been effectively organized, the boats they used might easily have capsized when something went wrong because they carried such a great number of passengers. If the ships had been damaged, the Red Army would have spent more time in crossing the river.

The organizational skill of the Red Army was much better than that of the Nanjing troops and troops of various provinces. A headquarters was set up which was responsible for the operation of crossing the river, to which senior cadres were assigned by the commander in chief of the Red Army and the CPC Central Committee. All units which crossed the river followed the orders issued by the headquarters. After arriving at the river bank, the Red Army units crossed the river in order of precedence. They were not allowed to vie with each other to cross the river. On their way to the river bank, soldiers studied the discipline to be observed when crossing the river, which was widely publicized. When they arrived at the river bank, they had to stop for a while, and were not allowed to approach the boats. They moved forward when the bugle sounded. When vacant boats arrived at the ferry, proper arrangements were made with regard to the number of persons to be carried, the number of persons who should proceed to the sandy beach to wait their turn, the departure order of the boats, and so on. The Red Army also numbered the boats. The loading capacity, or passenger-carrying capacity of each boat, was clearly explained and seating arrangements were also made. People were not allowed to jostle each other while boarding the boats. In each boat, besides a boatman, there was a commander responsible for the voyage. The orders issued by the commander had to be observed. The iron discipline of the Red Army was what the KMT troops lacked. When the Army and division commanders of the Red Army crossed the river, they also had to board the ships in an orderly way and follow directions from the headquarters in charge of the operation. They were not allowed to violate the discipline. Apart from being good at making arrangements for themselves, the Red Army units were also good at organizing the boatmen. This also showed the profound organizational skill of the Red Army. The first day of the operation there were only 18 boatmen. I heard that the number increased to 27 later. This was because these boatmen were influenced by the propaganda of the communist cadres sent by the headquarters, and they were sufficiently paid. It was reported that each boatman got 5 yuan of silver dollars each day whether he worked at daytime or at night. They ate six times each day and got pork. However, communist officers who were in charge of the operation only ate vegetables and green soya beans. As the saying goes: Generous rewards rouse one to heroism. I truly believe this. I heard that after the crossing, the communists destroyed all the boats. These boats were owned by Jin Tusi, a local leader of the Yi people. Realizing that these boatmen would encounter difficulty in making their living after the boats were destroyed, the Red Army gave each of them 30 yuan of silver dollars besides their wages. Therefore, most boatmen had a good impression of the Red Army, and they followed it into Sichuan.

The Red Army used the boats to transport troops, weapons, and Army horses across the river. It was impossible to get these horses aboard the boats. However, the Red Army found a way to tackle this problem. Grooms were ordered to take the saddles away, and drive the horses to the river side. After that, the grooms sat at the stern holding the halters. When the boat started sailing down the river, some other people at the river side flourished whips to urge the horses on, so that they followed the boat and swam across the river. When the Red Army crossed the river, it did not lose a single soldier or horse. They were proud of this. It is truly an interesting story.

After crossing the Jinsha Jiang, we arrived on the northern bank. There was a 30-40 uphill road with very steep slope stretching from there to Tongan Prefecture, just like the road linking the Jiaoxidu ferry crossing to the southern bank of the Jinsha Jiang. Along this road the land was barren and there were few trees. We came across only one family en route and saw some flocks of goats which signified that the area had become an animal husbandry zone. From Tongan Prefecture to Huili City we had to climb 30 more li uphill before arriving at a flatter road with high mountains towering to the skies on both sides. There was only one town in Tongan Prefecture. It was the largest town along the trade road between Sichuan and Yunnan, with some 300 households or more and a primary school.

On my arrival there, I saw a few hundred rural residents wearing a piece of red cloth and lining up for departure. All of them were newly recruited fighters who had just joined the Red Army at the instigation of the communists. It was reported that the communists had established in Tongan Prefecture a revolutionary committee, an Army to boycott forced taxes and levies, and so on. After leaving Tongan Prefecture, we marched toward Huili Town. The town seemed to be on fire as we approached. After we took up quarters, we learned that Huili town was under the control of Liu Yuantang's division subordinate to Liu Wenhui's units of the Sichuan and Xikang Army. Being afraid that the Red Army would storm into the town by climbing the town wall, the defending Liu division burned all the houses surrounding the town so as to keep the Red Army away. However, this act enraged the residents outside the town. Thousands of these residents, encouraged by the Red Army, joined the fighters in attacking the town. It was reported that most of these people joined the Red Army later.

Since Huili was firmly defended by Liu's division, the Red Army stopped storming the town and kept watch on the movements of the enemy. The Red Army's intention was to take a rest and have its force replenished, making use of the interval before the bandit suppression units of the Nanjing army could cross the river. So, the general headquarters of the Red Army ordered the Army to stop and rest at Huili for 5 days. All units were instructed to carry out an intensive propaganda drive among local residents and were required to fulfill an assignment of recruiting 5,000 new soldiers. All Red Army units including the general health section plunged into the mission. They managed to recruit 5,000 new men within 5 days as expected. The reason why the Red Army could replenish its force all the time was because, on the one hand, the Red Army was adept at carrying out propaganda work among local people and, on the other, the livelihood of the people in the provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan was just miserable. All the people in Huili had a strong grievance against Liu Yuantang, who had oppressed them by various means: Imposing different sorts of unreasonable taxes and levies on them; forcing the circulation of the copper coins cast by his private mint; press-ganging; raping young women and persecuting the family members of any woman who refused to be seduced, and so on. In doing so they certainly aroused the people's indignation. As the Red Army led poor people to "fight against Liu's family" and to "strike blows at local tyrants," thousands of local people vied with one another to join the Army.

The Red Army moved north 5 days later. Starting from Huili, the Army passed through Dechang, Xichang, Lugu (Footnote 44) (A town in Mianning County, Sichuan Province) and Yuexi (Footnote 45) (Yuexi County in Guizhou Province) and arrived at last on the bank of the Dadu He. The Army had marched for 29 days, at a speed of 60-70 li a day. Being eager to speedily cross the Dadu He, the Red Army did not raid Xichang but passed the place by a roundabout route. The road from Huili to the bank of the Dadu He stretched along the Anning He. Some sections of the road were very wide, with flat land extending to more than 20 li away; while other sections were narrow winding footpaths. High mountains on both sides of the Anning He towered over the river, with Daliang Shan on the east and the peaks in the Yalong Jiang Basin on the west. People of the Yi nationality live in these mountains while Han people inhabit the area by the road along the Anning He. There are serious conflicts between the Yi and Han peoples, and the Yu people often come out of the mountains to raid villages where Han people live. To defend themselves against the attacks by the enemy, every house in these villages has its own watchtower.

After passing by Lugu, the Red Army was divided into two groups advancing along two routes: The smaller group moved toward the south bank at Fulin (Footnote 46) (A town in Hanyuan County, Sichuan Province), pretending to cross the river so as to draw the attention of the enemy stationed on the other side of the river; while the larger group moved northwestward to seize the county seat of Mianning and attempt to cross the Dadu He by Anshunchang. (Footnote 47) (Anshunchang is situated to the northwest of Shimian County, Sichuan Province.) However, to approach Anshunchang from Daqiao town which was 50 li to the northwest of Mianning, one had to pass through the mountainous areas where the Yi people dwelt. The trip through the Yi areas would take 2 and 1/2 days, and this posed a major obstacle for the Red Army.

Daliang Shan to the east of the Anning He was the base of the Yi people, the most terrifying enemy of the Sichuan people. The Daliang Shan mountainous zone covers an enormous area which stretches from Ningnan County in the south to the Dadu He in the north and from Anning He in the west to Leibo, Mabian, and Pingshan on the bank of the Jinsha Jiang in the east. The area to the northwest of Mianning and to the south of Kangding was under the control of the Yi people. According to legend, the Yi people living here are the descendants of the so-called "south barbarians" who were the target of a punitive expedition by Zhuge Liang, the Wu Marquis, in ancient times. There is indeed a mute spring in the Yi area to the northwest of Mianning County, and whoever drinks the water of this spring will immediately become dumb. There is an account of this mute spring in both the Mianning County chronicles and the Ningyuan Prefectural chronicles. All Yi people were armed. The Yi people (in the mountains to the northwest of Mianning) possessed several thousand rifles and a number of portable machine guns, all seized from Han troops. The land on the banks of the Anning He originally belonged to Yi hereditary headmen. However, Liu Wenhui entered Yazhou after his defeat in Chengdu. He expelled all the Yi headmen and took over their land. Thus, Yi people were bitterly feuding with Liu's troops. In fact, the government could only keep those Han people living on the plains by the sides of the Anning He under its control. Yi people remained beyond government control and refused to pay any taxes and levies. Any government Army convoy intending to pass through the mountainous areas controlled by Yi people must have a strength equivalent to a regiment or more, otherwise the convoy would be liable to be disarmed by Yi people.

Then life is different in the Yi areas from that in Mongolia and Tibet. Yi people still live in tribal style. Being suspicious and apprehensive, different Yi tribes are in long-standing feud with each other and there are frequent armed fights between them. The Yi people lead a seminomadic and semifarming life. They mostly grow maize and breed cattle, goats, and horses.

There are two classes among the Yi people: The first is the black Yi, the ruling class; and the other is the white Yi, slaves who farm all their lives for the black Yi in exchange for nothing more than food and clothing. The black Yi people hold the full power over the white Yi's lives and property. Every black Yi has tens or hundreds of white Yi's working as his servants. And he himself never has to work. The black Yi and the white Yi never intermarry with each other. Now, the number of black Yi's is decreasing but they still hold the ruling power. The so-called headmen are in fact leaders of the black Yi's. White Yi's were Han people captured by black Yi's or the descendants of those Han people captured. The black Yi's in the Daliang Shan area and in the northwest mountainous area of Mianning County always exchange their Han captives so that the captives are unable to flee because they do not know their way around. The black Yi's have control over the marriages among white Yi's and called white Yi's Wazi (meaning children in the Sichuan dialect). But every black Yi's family always entrusts a white Yi as the housekeeping Wazi (that is, housekeeper).

The housekeeping Wazi is in charge of all financial affairs and day-to-day work. As Han people do not distinguish between the black and white Yi's but fight against all of them and, in addition, the Yi people are uneducated, white Yi's always help black Yi's to oppose Han people and join black Yi's in their battles against Han troops.

Trade between Han and Yi is conducted through interpreters. Some Yi people can speak the Han language. But since black Yi's are afraid of being killed by Han people, they never leave the mountains but authorize white Yi's to have dealings with Han people on behalf of them. Yi people sell hides, musk, and other articles to Han people in exchange for cloth and salt.

The Yi costumes are completely different from the Han. They wrap their heads with green scarves with long ends stretching behind, looking just like Indian cavalry policemen we used to see in Shanghai (Footnote 48) (Indian policemen employed by the police station in the British Concession in Shanghai before liberation who patrolled on horseback). Some of them wear a silver ring in their noses. Both men and women wear earrings. Their earrings are made of bone instead of metal, with three to four pieces of round or ellipse-shape bone strung together. Their faces are blackened. They wear a kind of jacket, locally made, of wool which looks like the Buddhist monk's gown. (These jackets are soft and light and can keep out the cold, thus are suitable for use in marching). The Yi people wear a belt around their waist. The weather in the mountains where Yi people live is changeable daily: it is hot at noon, there is strong wind after 1600, it begins to rain around 2000 or 2100 and becomes fine again the next morning. The weather changed in this pattern all the 7 to 8 days we were passing through the Yi-controlled mountainous areas. As the weather changes drastically every day, Yi people always bring along a jacket wherever they go so that they can keep out the cold whenever there is a strong wind or whenever it rains.

Every Yi man keeps a sharp knife all the time as a weapon to protect himself or as a tool to cut meat when eating. Yi people wrap their legs with puttees and never wear socks and shoes. Only a small number of them wear straw sandals. Born and brought up in the mountains, Yi people are good mountaineers. While the Red Army fighters marched up along the main roads in the mountains, Yi people were seen climbing up the hill along those rugged paths by the sides of the roads as swiftly as monkeys did.

The Yi people lead a much poorer life than the Han people do. Han people can farm on flat land, while Yi people can only farm on the slopes because their farmland has been nibbled away by Sichuan Army officers and local officials. Looking far from the mountain foot, one can see the Yi people's farmland on the slopes which are as steep as cliffs. But that is the only land where Yi people can farm. Since they can only farm on hillsides, Yi people's staple food is nothing other than maize. Their houses are terribly dilapidated. Built with bamboo or wood and covered by pine bark, the walls of these houses are very wet and full of fleas.

There were more than 10 Yi tribes in the mountainous areas where the Red Army passed. After the vanguard regiment of the Red Army left Daqiao town and marched 20 li up the mountain, Yi people from three tribes closed in on the regiment in front, behind, and on the left, intending to disarm the unit. However, the Red Army fighters did a good job in publicizing the Army's policy. They told the white Yi people surrounding them that the CPC advocated equality between all the nationalities in the country, opposed the Han warlords' oppression on the Yi people, and declared that the Red Army was fighting against the Liu family which the Yi people hated to the very marrow of its bones. (That is to say, fighting against Liu Wenhui's Army which ruthlessly oppressed the Yi people).

Persuaded by the Red Army leaders, the heads of the "Guji" tribe agreed to join the Red Army in fighting against the Liu troops. So, they toasted with wine mixed with chicken blood to swear to abide by their oath of alliance. Thus, the "Guji" tribe stopped attacking the Red Army but became a "guerrilla detachment" under the Red Army, serving as guides of the Army in the mountainous areas and assisting in pacifying more than 10 other tribes including the "Ayue" and "Luohong." Thus, when the main force of the Red Army passed through these Yi areas later, Yi people welcomed them by the sides of the road and presented them with cattle and goats as gifts. And the Red Army gave them leather coats, old rifles, salt, and cloth in return. We finally passed safely through the Yi-controlled mountainous areas which we had been afraid of before.

Having passed through the Yi areas, the Red Army arrived at Kailuochang. (Footnote 49) (It is now thought that Kailuochang is today's Chaluo township in Shimian County, Sichuan Province.) There were more than 20 households in this town. I have to mention an interesting thing which happened during the Red Army's stay here. Liu Wenhui's troops, stationed in Dajianlu (Footnote 50) (Today's Kangding County, Sichuan Province), Xikang Province, depended on Xichang prefecture for the supply of grain, and the Liu Army had set up a grain station at Kailuochang. When the vanguard units of the Red Army arrived at Kailuochang, the Liu army's grain station officials mistook them for troops from Nanjing. They received and feted the Red Army fighters cordially and supplied them with grain. The Red Army took from them more than 6,000 sacks of rice, each weighing 60 jin. The Red Army leaders distributed part of the rice among all units and the rest among local people. On arriving at Kailuochang, I saw many people, old and young, each carrying a sack of rice back home. They looked happy and told me: "It is the gentlemen of the Red Army who have given us the rice. We have had no rice to eat for a long time. It is the Red Army which distributes the rice among us. The Red Army is really good!" Liu Wenhui's Army squeezed grain out of the people but the Red Army redistributed the grain among the people. This fact made the Red Army more popular among local people.

The distance between Kailuochang and Anshunchang on the bank of the Dadu He is 60 li. The Political Department of the Red Army called Anshunchang "a place of revolutionary historic significance" because Anshunchang was the place where Shi Dakai, a general of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, was defeated and captured. He was then leading his units out of Nanjing and marching into Sichuan after there was a split within the court of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and the North King Wei Changhui killed the East King Yang Xiuqing. That evening, when I treated Li Fuchun, deputy director of the Political Department, for a foot disease, it happened that Li received a man who was over 90 years old. The old man was a teacher at a local school, and had seen Shi Dakai's defeat with his own eyes. Li Fuchun entertained him as he narrated the story of Shi Dakai's troops. According to the old man, Shi Dakai's army still had 50,000-60,000 troops equipped with plenty of weapons and horses when they arrived at Anshunchang. Unfortunately, the troops were obstructed by a flood from the upper reaches and could not cross the river. With the Dadu He and a destroyed chain bridge in front, the Qing troops on their right, dangerous cliffs on their left, and Yi people outnumbering behind, Shi Dakai's troops and even Shi Dakai himself began to lose their confidence. Shi Dakai's troops were sieged there for 47 days. Finally, Shi had himself tied up and went over to the Qing camp to surrender and all his troops became prisoners. The old man said that the "long-haired rebels" were in fact not bandits. They claimed to be striving for the "expulsion of the barbarians and recovery of the state of the Han People."

Shi Dakai's troops were friendly with civilians and strict in discipline. The old man added: "The Red Army is even stricter in discipline than King Yi's (the title of Shi Dakai) army." If what the old man said was true, we can be sure that Shi Dakai had indeed failed to cross the Dadu He and was thus defeated. I learned later from Shanghai and Sichuan newspapers that Chiang Kai-shek did cite the defeat of Shi Dakai's troops as an example to support this argument that the Red Army would be wiped out on the bank of the Dadu He. However the Red Army eventually crossed the river safely. That is why the Red Army was proud of their success and considered the crossing of the Dadu He a historic military victory.

The Dadu He is in fact the upper reach of the Yangzi Jiang. It flows into the Min Jiang, which in its turn flows into the Yangzi Jiang. The Red Army arrived on the bank of the Dadu He in late May. The weather had turned warm by then and snow on the top of the mountains at the upper reach had melted, causing a torrential flood. The Dadu He is wider than the Jinsha Jiang with a swifter current and bigger waves. It took 50 minutes for a ferry to cross the river to and fro each time. It required at least eight sailors to operate such a small ferry. To cross the river, it was necessary to first drag a loaded ferry boat 50-60 meters along the south bank from a pier. Then the boat was released and moved downstream rapidly like an arrow toward the pier on the north bank. The boat had to reach the pier accurately otherwise it might crash on the reefs. Therefore, only those who were absolutely familiar with the waterway and the distribution of the reefs could act as qualified sailors. When the ferry crossed back to the south bank, a similar procedure had to be followed. Thus it took 50 minutes to go to and fro across the river.

The Red Army had only two boats at Anshunchang. A battalion of soldiers under Liu Wenhui's command was then stationed on the north bank of the river opposite Anshunchang. They had built fortifications around to prevent the Red Army from crossing the river. But, given that the troops were stationed on the north bank, why were the boats anchored alongside the south bank instead of the north bank? As luck would have it, the commander of that battalion under Liu Wenhui's units had his parents-in-law living at Anshunchang on the south bank and he happened to stay overnight the very night in the house of his parents-in-law because he was to bring them and all the local gentry to the north bank the next morning. Since he knew that the Red Army was then 60 li away from Anshunchang, based on the intelligence he received, and did not expect the enemy to arrive until the next afternoon, he slept peacefully with his wife in the house of his parents-in-law that night. However, the Red Army made a rapid march and arrived at Anshunchang in the middle of the night. Thus, the two boats were taken and the battalion commander captured by the Red Army.

But, even though the Red Army had two boats, it was by no means easy for all the force to cross the Dadu He because a battalion of the enemy force was stationed on the north bank and the boats could hardly pull in to shore. Moreover, all the sailors had run away by then and the Red Army could not find any skilled sailors to carry them to the other side of the river. Anyway, the Red Army eventually defeated Liu's troops stationed on the north bank and succeeded in crossing the river. The Red Army was proud of its victory. In fact, as an eyewitness, I agreed that the Red Army fighters' high morale and courage as well as the CPC and CYL members' spirit of utter devotion had played an important part in bringing about the victory.

The following is a report on the crossing of the river. After capturing 2 boats, the Red Army leaders selected 17 CPC and CYL members, among whom some had been sailors in Jiangxi and Fujian before, to carry out a special mission. These 17 fighters, bringing along with them some spears, rifles, Mauser pistols, hand grenades, and machine guns, bravely rowed the boats toward the north bank despite all danger.

While on the south bank of the river the Red Army fighters were firing fiercely on the other side with machine guns and mortars from their positions and deployed some superior gunners to level a heavy barrage in support of the 17 fighters crossing the river on board the boats.

As soon as the Red Army fighters' boats departed from the south bank, Liu's troops on the north bank began to fire at them. However, the Red Army fighters braved the barrage and eventually reached the north bank and immediately launched an attack on Liu's troops. Only four of them were injured in the attack and the rest of them stormed the enemy's positions. At that moment, Liu's troops began to lose morale, frightened by the courage of the Red Army fighters and oppressed by the heavy barrage of machine-gun fire and mortars from the Red Army's positions on the south bank. Those Red Army fighters who had reached the north bank quickly seized the enemy's positions and captured some of their weapons. It was said that a machine gunner of Liu's units was killed instantly by the Red Army's superior gunners on the south bank when he was climbing up to a position on the top of a hill to mount a machine gun. So, all Liu Wenhui's troops retreated to their positions on the top of the hills. The Red Army fighters took over the fortifications left over by Liu's troops and strengthened their positions to prevent any counterattack by the enemy while sending the boats back to the south bank to carry more fellow fighters across the river. As soon as a battalion reached the north bank, the Red Army began to charge the enemy positions. Liu's units collapsed quickly because of loss of morale. So the Red Army seized the enemy positions on the top of the hills and pursued and attacked the enemy. It was reported that most of Liu's troops were disarmed. After the battle, the Red Army launched a full-scale propaganda campaign to publicize the great deeds of the 17 fighters who carried out a brilliant operation in forging the Dadu He, awarding them and honoring them with the title of combat heroes. Although I was not a soldier, I had served in the Army for a few years and had seen quite a few vanguard units undertaking operations of forging rivers. However, it was the first time I had seen a 17-man task force crossing such a wide and torrential river, defeating an enemy battalion, and seizing the enemy's fortifications. That is the reason the CPC always takes CPC and CYL members as model Red Army fighters. These communists who always take the lead in charging the enemy and are the last to retreat are indeed superior to the KMT and all other armies.

The Red Army began to cross the river with the two captured boats. But it would take a lot of time to ferry all the troops. Moreover, the Red Army was being threatened by the enemy who was pursuing them. Therefore, only a division of the Red Army with light packs were ferried within 2 and 1/2 days while the rest immediately marched toward Luding County to raid the Luding Bridge as their main target so that most of the Red Army's force could cross the river by that bridge. Thus the main force of the Red Army moved west along the south bank of the river toward the Luding Bridge through some areas of Xikang Province. While the division that had crossed the river moved along the north bank toward the same destination -- the Luding Bridge.

However, Liu's troops were heavily deployed along the north bank. The Red Army's units marching along the north bank had their first encounter with Liu's troops 30 li to the west of Anshunchang. Liu's troops were defeated again and again by the Red Army because they were scattered and lacked telecommunications equipment. Liu's troops were composed largely of newly press-ganged men who did not want to fight and had no fighting experience. Believing the Red Army's propaganda that no captured officers or soldiers of the White Army would be slaughtered, most of them surrendered to the Red Army without making any resistance. So the Red Army fought the enemy with arms captured from the enemy.

It was reported that the division moving along the north bank had gained a lot. (When munitions consumed and those captured in a battle are equal, the Red Army fighters say they "have not lost"; when those captured exceed those consumed, they say they "have gained.") The Red Army fought fiercely with Liu's units that stubbornly defended Lengqi (Footnote 51) (A town in Luding County, Sichuan Province) 45 km from the Luding Bridge. Thanks to the support of the Red Army units on the south bank that fired at Liu's troops from behind, the Red Army units that clashed with the enemy head-on managed to outflank Lengqi to surround the enemy. It was reported that a whole regiment under Liu's units stationed there was completely eliminated and Lengqi was captured. In the meantime, the vanguard units of the Red Army on the south bank had already reached Luding Bridge.

The Luding Bridge is the bridge linking Sichuan with Xikang and Xizang. And the seat of the Luding County Government is located at the northern end of the bridge. The section of the Dadu He at this point is relatively narrow with steep cliffs standing face to face of both sides, and the current is extraordinarily swift. The Luding Bridge is a chain bridge comprising 13 iron chains linking the 2 sides of the river. Nine chains form the surface of the bridge while the rest serve as the handrails on both sides of the bridge. Long planks are placed perpendicular to the chains on the surface and then laths are placed parallel to the chains on the top of the planks. So people and horses can walk across the bridge. I originally thought that it would be difficult to cross the river by the chain bridge. But in fact people as well as horses could cross the river by the bridge easily. The bridge is 9 zhang long and 1 zhang wide and the 13 chains were donated by 13 separate provinces.

The Red Army units on the south bank reached the Luding Bridge first because they encountered no resistance along their way. At that time, Liu's troops stationed at the north end of the Luding Bridge had strengthened their fortifications and tightened defense. They removed all the planks and laths, leaving only the 13 chains linking the 2 sides of the river. The Red Army leader Lin Biao (a regiment commander under the 1st Army) ordered the most combat-worthy company with the highest percentage of CPC and CYL members in his unit to launch the attack. He also instructed his men to collect all planks available and piled them up in a Catholic chapel on the south bank. So the fighters of the company were sent to carry out the operation. They crawled on the nine chains and charged in front while other fighters following them laid planks on the chains. The vanguard fighters were so brave that they reached the north bank very quickly. Having lost their fighting spirit, Liu's soldiers surrendered to the Red Army and were disarmed, their fortifications being seized by the Red Army. Liu's troops lit fires everywhere when withdrawing from Luding town, leaving no grain or lodgings to the Red Army. The Red Army fighters who reached the north bank put out the fires while pursuing the enemy. Meanwhile, the Red Army units, which had moved along the north bank, arrived from Lengqi.

So Liu's defeated units retreating from Luding County were besieged and disarmed. The fires in the town were eventually put out, but more than half of the houses felt very grateful to the Red Army for putting out the fires and hated Liu's army bitterly. Liu Wenhui's troops lit fires along their way at Huili, Xichang, Luding, and other counties in the hope of obstructing the Red Army. However, they had failed to obstruct the Red Army but had aroused the people's hatred instead.

The crossing by all the Red Army units of the Luding Bridge was really a great success. If the Red Army had failed to cross the bridge, the division that crossed from Anshunchang over to the north bank of the river would have had to fight in isolation and the main force of the Red Army would have had to pass through Xikang. As Xikang was a nomad area, there were certainly difficulties in provisions and taking up quarters.

The KMT troops took Yaan as a rear base to suppress the Red Army. They had difficulties, but they could be given material assistance from the rear. However, the Red Army could hardly overcome the difficulties they were confronted with. Now that all the Red Army units had crossed over the Luding Bridge, they could once again unfold activities in Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu, and Qinghai Provinces.

After capturing Luding County, the Red Army had to move southeastward and pass through Hanyuan and Yingjing before reaching Yazhou. However, when the Red Army drew near Nitou sub-county (Footnote 52) (It is now called Yidong area, in Hanyuan County, Sichuan Province.), it was informed that the Sichuan Army was holding a commanding height against the arrival of the Red Army. Under such circumstances, the Red Army immediately changed its course, moving northeast toward the Tianquan He to make an assault on six brigades of Yangsen's units guarding the river. This forced the Red Army units to turn to mountain paths from broad roads. I remember that the Red Army spent a night at Hualinping sub-county (Footnote 53) (a village in today's Sanjiao township, Hanyuan County, Sichuan Province), located on the top of a 4,500 meter-high mountain. It was early June by the Chinese Lunar calendar, yet it was extremely cold that night. When we started off in the morning, we found that the whole mountain was snow-capped after heavy snow fell the previous night. It was chilly, but the Red Army soldiers had left their cotton-padded coats in Yunnan earlier. In the face of bitter cold, all the soldiers still wore a happy expression and had no complaints.

When the main force of the Red Army reached Shuizitian (Footnote 54) (Today's Shuizidi village of Sanjiao Township, Hanyuan County, Sichuan Province), an advance party of our soldiers had already put six brigades of Yangsen's units to flight from the Tianquan He and stormed two cities -- Tianquan and Lushan. Setting out from Shuizitian, our troops passed across a high mountain without trails and steps, overgrown with thick brambles and high trees. The mountain was awfully muddy -- we had to wade slowly in knee-deep mud. The whole distance was only 30 li. We set out in early morning, but our follow-up units reached the top after midnight. Since there was no trace of human inhabitation, no torches could be found. Therefore, the main force of our troops had to stand still in mud, they could not descend the mountain until day broke. Zhou Enlai, vice chairman of the Red Army Military Committee (head of the Political Department of Whampoa Military Academy during the time of KMT-CPC cooperation), also stood in mud throughout the night. When I saw him the next morning, he remained in high spirits, but was terribly muddled. At the foot of the mountain there were six or seven households -- they were very surprised at seeing the Red Army, thinking that they had descended from the sky. It was learned that these people having lived at the foot of the mountain from generation to generation, were told by their ancestors that there was an access path to the top of the mountain, but no one dared to try because it had lain waste for years and wild animals appeared and disappeared unexpectedly. Therefore, upon seeing the Red Army, they immediately swarmed around them and made detailed inquiries about the mountain.

The Red Army climbed up and descended the snow-capped mountain in Hualinping and waded through muddy paths in Shuizitian, but none of them complained from start to finish. The basic reason for this was that the morale of the Red Army soldiers was perfect at that time. They were firmly convinced that they would join forces with the units of Xu Xiangqian in the north of Sichuan and all of them had confidence that they would have many chances to render service in Sichuan, a land of plenty, and that they could move to Shaanxi and Gansu from the north of Sichuan and could wage war against Japanese troops to attain the CPC's consistent stand of resisting Japan and recovering lost territory. A song was very popular when the Red Army units were in Tianquan. The words of the song read and follows:

"1) The present central tasks are to fight Japanese troops head-on, to recover north China and the three provinces in east China and to defend the nation. 2) Sichuan is excellent and fertile and it is a fond dream of the enemy to blockade it. 3) The Red Army of workers and peasants is ironlike; the enemy will get flustered when they see the two main forces join together after crossing over the Jinsha Jiang. 4) The Red Army becomes stronger and stronger and unites as one, our great tasks will definitely be accomplished." From the words of the song, we can see the high morale of the Red Army at that time.

After seizing Tianquan and Lushan Counties, the Red Army dispatched troops to Feixianguan, only 20 li from Yazhou. At that time the Red Army intended to effect a junction as soon as possible with the units of Xu Xiangqian in Songpan, Maoxian (Footnote 55) (Today's Maowen Qiang autonomous county in Sichuan Province), and Beichuan Counties in north Sichuan. For this reason, we bypassed the obstacle of the Sichuan Army and moved westward to climb across Qionglai Mountain. We joined forces with Xu's units in Lifan after capturing Baoxing and Maogong. Not long after the two forces of the Red Army were united, I was dispatched by He Cheng to west Sichuan to take charge of the public health work of an independent battalion under the West Sichuan Special Committee. Before long, the battalion was broken up by the Sichuan Army. I was lucky to meet my old schoolmate, Mr Jiang, and he helped me return to my native place safe and sound.

From what I saw and heard in the 3 years when I followed the Red Army through the westward journey of the Red Army in Sichuan, I find that the Red Army and the CPC have become faction of strength in China. This is an irrefutable fact. If the Red Army is merely a joke, is it worthwhile for the Nanjing Government and the provincial authorities to amass a million troops and to consume the major part of state revenue every year? And why does Chiang Kai-shek himself bother to supervise the suppression in Jiangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, and Sichuan? Obviously, it is because the Red Army has become a major opponent to the Nanjing Army and it is stronger than all other factions in China with the exception of the Nanjing Army. In terms of numbers, the Red Army is larger than all factions of strength in south and north China, except the Nanjing Army. In terms of quality, although I do not know the details, one thing can be seen as proof -- the other strong factions such as Tang Shengzhi, Li Zongren, Bai Chongzi, Feng Yuxiang, and Yan Xishan, were all quickly defeated by the Chiang Kai-shek Army in battles with the Nanjing Government, even though they were superior to the Red Army with regard to the areas they occupied and their economic conditions. But this was not the case with the Red Army. Chiang Kai-shek "had suppressed the CPC" for many years and very often fixed a date to wipe out the Red Army, but he failed. Particularly after Mao Zedong, Zhu De, and Xu Xianqiang joined forces, the Red Army became much more active. Furthermore, in the course of suppressing the CPC," the Nanjing Army freely supplied a large amount of ammunition and weapons to the Red Army. Where could the Red Army obtain weapons? It could not buy from anyone and did not have modern arsenals. The only source was the KMT Army, though it consumed a lot in battles. Even if that was so, the Red Army still could confront, and equally match the Nanjing Government. That is why I said that the Red Army has become a strong faction that counts as one of the largest in China.

As an onlooker, I think that the following factors are the source of strength and high combat effectiveness of the Red Army:

First is the unity of the Red Army soldiers. This is an iron-clad fact. Just think. If the Red Army soldiers had not united as one in bitter fighting for many years, they would have been defeated long ago. The unity of the Red Army resulted from continued education carried out by the CPC among its soldiers. These soldiers firmly believed that to resist Japanese aggression and save the country and to liberate workers and peasants were their missions. This greatly enhanced the morale of the Red Army. Still more, the CPC members and the CYL members accounted for nearly half of the total of Red Army soldiers. These communists, who were specially educated by the CPC, played a fine leading role in the Red Army. For example, new recruits to the Red Army were generally taught and educated by the CPC and CYL members of companies. When the Red Army encountered difficulties on the March (such as shortage of provisions and camps), the CPC members certainly let nonparty soldiers eat and sleep first. In battlefields the CPC and CYL members were usually first to charge the enemy lines, but retreated after others. When they were wounded, none of them cried piteously, but shouted loudly: "Comrades! Charge forward!" "Do not care about me, fight first." The high combat effectiveness of the Red Army is due to the CPC leadership. Before going into battle, the CPC and CYL members of all the Red Army companies hold meetings to arrange successors of company commands and political instructors, if they are wounded in battles, and such arrangements are also made for junior officers. This is why the Red Army units are seldom put to flight.

The unity and morale of the Red Army soldiers are stronger than that of any other armies in China.

Second, why the Red Army cannot be defeated but is able to grow stronger day by day is only because it is supported by the masses of people. To cite the Red Area in Jiangxi as an example, after the Red Army fought there for many years, there were labor and material shortages, but it could persist in fighting for a long time. This was simply because the Red Army was strongly supported by the local people. Moreover, on the march into Sichuan, the Red Army was confronted with numerous difficulties on the way, but it won great support from the local people. It did not suffer from hunger, but was reinforced after some 10,000 local people voluntarily joined it.

Some people said that the Red Army forced local people to join. This was a lie, and as a matter of fact, it was impossible to do so. Just imagine. When the Red Army reached a place for the first time, if the local people stayed far away from it, how could it recruit them? As a matter of fact, upon reaching a place, the Red Army was warmly welcomed by the local people, with the exception of "local tyrants," who had run away long ago. They worked as guides and porters for the Red Army and many of them asked to be recruited by the Army.

In my opinion, the Red Army is assisted and supported by the masses not because they are coerced to do so, but because they are impressed by the good discipline of its soldiers, who do not harass them or touch anything belonging to them. Moreover, they often confiscate property of warlords, bureaucrats, and evil gentry to distribute to the local people, who vie with one another to join the Red army as they think that it can bring them real benefit.

Third, the Red Army can stand firm and erect in the face of numerous difficulties. Compared with the Nanjing Army, the Red Army often comes across unexpected difficulties. Then how can it overcome these difficulties? I think that it indeed has certain good leaders, who are clever and competent. For example, Mao Zedong and Zhu De, founders of the Red Army, persisted in war with the provincial armies and the Nanjing Army for many years under very difficult conditions, and it was not easy for them to build the Red Army into an army with hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

I think that Mao Zedong and Zhu De are not only talented but also rare geniuses. Without such capable people, there would be no way to achieve our great cause. Meanwhile, others like Zhou Enlai and Lin Zhanxi were also important political figures in China early during the cooperation between the KMT and the CPC. Zhou Enlai was head of the Political Department of Whampoa Military Academy and many graduates of Whampoa Military Academy now in different armies in the country are on familiar terms with Zhou. Zhou Enlai's courage and willpower in work have made a good impression on students of Whampoa.

Middle-ranking and senior officers of the Red Army such as Peng Dehuai, Liu Bocheng, Lin Biao, Xu Xiangqian, Dong Zhen-tang, Luo Binghui, Chen Yi, and others were formerly officers of the National Revolutionary Army when the KMT cooperated with the CPC to carry out the Northern Expedition. They are good at commanding their troops to fight, and have been leading the Red Army for many years. They have firm confidence in the way the CPC handles national affairs and political matters. Liu Bocheng, Peng Dehuai, and Luo Binghui, as well as Zhao Bosheng of the 26th route army were Communist Party members in the National Revolutionary Army before the Northern Expedition was conducted. Later, they "mutinied" and became members of the Red Army. They are firm and staunch Communist Party members, and have been leaders of the Red Army in fighting against the KMT troops for 7 to 8 years.

When I was in the Red Army, the way of life and good conduct of the Red Army leaders left a good impression on me. This was because of the KMT officers. It was known to all that in other armies, even a regimental commander could live an extravagant life, not to mention the division and army commanders. However, things were completely different with the Red Army officers. In their daily life, they shared the comforts and hardships of the masses. They ate the same kind of food whether they were commanders in chief or ordinary soldiers. Red Army officers and ordinary soldiers wore the same kind of uniforms. Therefore, Zhu De was also called a "mess cook chief." Nobody knew who were Army commanders or division commanders. Furthermore, Red Army leaders identified themselves with soldiers. Army commanders and division commanders often played basketball and volleyball with their soldiers. Officers and soldiers on very intimate terms with each other. They shared joys and sorrows in their daily life. This was the thing that officers in other armies lacked. It precisely because the Red Army leaders shared weal and woe with their soldiers that the soldiers never uttered a word of complaint even when they were in extremely difficult conditions. With regard to fine character and the way the Red Army leaders handled things, other army men in general were too inferior to bear comparison. I would like to take two examples in this regard. Red Army leaders such as Mao Zedong, Zhu De, and others never kept concubines. Red Army officers were forbidden to gamble or smoke opium. I never heard that the Red Army officers had been guilty of corruption, or pocketing a portion of the soldiers' pay.

There was another thing that never happened among the KMT officers and people in general. For example, Zhao Bosheng and Dong Zhen-tang were senior officers of the northwestern troops led by Sun Lianzhong. In Duning of Jiangxi Province, they led 16,000 or 17,000 soldiers of the 26th route army to cross over to the side of the Red Army. Zhao and Dong were underground Communist Party members. Once they arrived in the Red areas, they contributed their savings of the past 10 years or so -- a sum of 7 to 8 thousand yuan -- to the CPC Central Committee. All this showed the firm belief of the Red Army leaders in communism and their self-sacrificing spirit. They were completely different from officers of other troops who were guilty of corruption, violating the law, and robbery.

I believe that the victory of the Red Army in many fierce battles over the past few years, and its gradual development should be attributed to its talented leaders and capable cadres. Many talented personnel in the Red Army and the Communist Party are truly unique talents in the whole country.

I reviewed past events after I left the Red Army and returned to my home village. I first served the Nanjing troops, which "suppressed the communists," and later I joined the Red Army, which was "encircled and suppressed." I personally experienced the war between the two sides, which lasted 7 or 8 years. Reviewing the results of the war over the past few years, I realize that the war has harmed the country. People sat by idly when Japan devoured our three provinces in the northeast, and we lost the entire northern region. If the Nanjing troops, the Red Army, and other troops throughout the country had aimed their guns at the foreign aggressors, it would have not been easy for Japan to invade our country. Government leaders said that to resist foreign aggression, we should, first of all, stabilize the internal situation. Under the present situation and conditions, this policy should be expeditiously changed. Taking negative factors into consideration, we know that although the KMT Government and Chiang Kai-shek have exerted vigorous efforts to "suppress the communists" for many years, the Red Army has not been annihilated. On the contrary, the Red Army units under Mao Zedong and Zhu De have joined forces with the Red Army units and by Xu Xiangqian. In the present areas occupied by the Red Army units, it is not as easy to encircle them as it was in Jiangxi. Armymen at home who are slightly clear about the present situation know that it is impossible to completely annihilate the Red Army. If we continue to fight with the Red Army for many more years, Japan will conquer our whole nation regardless of the victory or defeat of the civil war. If our fellow countrymen kill each other, and sit by idly when the formidable enemy is devouring the whole nation, it is those KMT officials who will be too ashamed to face our fellow countrymen. In the meantime, our Chinese nation will perish forever.

I think that under the present situation, if we continue to "suppress the communists," we can only harm our country rather than saving it. The government authorities should change their policy, and cooperate with the Red Army to resist foreign aggression. Men of insight cannot but admit that the Red Army is a great force in terms of its quantity and quality. When the Red Army was in extremely difficult conditions, it could fight against several million troops from Nanjing and other provinces for many years. If the Red Army is provided with sufficient material supplies now, it will further enhance its combat effectiveness. Why should we not let the Red Army, which is good at fighting, resist Japan? If all troops in our country unite as one to resist foreign aggression, it will not be difficult for us to recover the lost territory. In the meantime, there are a number of capable persons among Red Army leaders. At present, it is necessary to pool the wisdom of our talented personnel in order to resist foreign aggression. Why should we not make use of the Red Army forces and their talented personnel to serve the purpose of defeating foreign aggressors?

Some people think that the Red Army craved for civil war and turned a blind eye to foreign aggression. But I believe that this is not true. Red Army leaders such as Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Zhou Enlai, Lin Zhanjiang, Wu Tei, and others are politically conscious politicians. Before and during the Northern Expedition, they were members of the KMT Central Committee and senior officers of the National Revolutionary Army. They made great contributions to the Northern Expedition. Due to different political doctrine, they split and fought with the KMT.

Today, when our country is in imminent peril, and when the civil war is bringing us near death, and cooperation is needed to resist foreign aggression and save our country, as long as the two sides adopt a frank and sincere attitude, it is completely possible for them to work together to resist foreign aggression. In the meantime, Red Army leaders and the Communist Party have advocated that troops throughout the country unite as one to resist Japan. My friend told me that the CPC Central Committee and the government it leads have also advocated the organization of a national defense government and an anti-Japanese united army by all forces throughout the country. I think that now is the time for the government to change its domestic and foreign policies. The only aim of the common people like me is to save China from being subjugated, and avoid becoming slaves of a foreign power. In any case, the Red Army soldiers are also Chinese. They are our compatriots. If we do nothing to deal with foreign aggression, but are engrossed in attacking our compatriots, it is undoubtedly the same as a policy of suicide. China is a country with vast territory, abundant resources, and enormous population. If people in China stop killing each other, and unite as one to fight the enemy, there is no need for us to fear the Japanese, and the Chinese nation will also be reinvigorated!

RENMIN RIBAO SHORT COMMENTARY ON TV SET SWINDLE

HK050811 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 4 Feb 85 p 1

["Short" commentary: "Shocking, Thought-Provoking"]

[Text] This practical joke conducted by the "braggart" and swindler Liu Baoqin is annoying, lamentable, detestable, and abominable. It has given us a profound lesson by way of a negative example.

It is not difficult to see from Liu Baoqin's swindle that new unhealthy practices are covering up economic crimes and economic crimes are taking advantage of new unhealthy practices. These new unhealthy practices are doing serious harm to the smooth progress of the economic system reform. Some party and government organs and some party and government cadres are taking advantage of their power and various connections to run companies and enterprises in order to seek personal gains and gains for small collectives. Some of them resell goods in short supply or engage in speculation to seek exorbitant profits. Habitual swindler Liu Baoqin has precisely availed himself of this loophole. Some of our cadres have relaxed their vigilance, have been seriously influenced by bureaucracy, have been obsessed by a lust for money, and have thus been taken in. They have been seriously derelict in their duty. All party members and party cadres must draw a lesson from this.

How should a county, a township, or a village develop the socialist commodity economy and attain prosperity? The guiding ideology must be clear. We must proceed from reality and embark on the correct road, that is, the road put forward by the Central Committee of attaining prosperity through labor. We must not resort to crooked means. Some cadres of Yutian County engaged in profiteering and tried to be clever only to end up with a blunder. They did harm to themselves as well as to others and the country. We should learn a lesson from their errors.

HUANG HUANG ATTENDS ANHUI RURAL WORK MEETING

OW060526 Hefei Anhui Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Report on Huang Huang's speech at the closing ceremony for Anhui Provincial Rural Work Meeting]

[Text] The provincial party committee called a provincial rural work meeting from 29 January to 4 February. The meeting transmitted the guidelines of the national rural work conference, summed up the province's rural work last year, and studied and arranged the tasks for the rural work for this year in order to strive for greater successes in the province's rural work this year after achieving an overall development in the work last year.

Attending the meeting were 382 responsible comrades of the provincial party committee Standing Committee, party committees of organs directly under the province and all prefectures, cities, and counties, and the rural work department of the provincial party committee. Wang Yuzhao, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and vice governor, made a work report. Huang Huang, secretary of the provincial party committee, spoke at the meeting.

The meeting pointed out: Since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, a new situation of commodity production has emerged and important breakthroughs in the change of a self-sufficient or semi-self-sufficient economy to commodity production and the change of traditional to modern agriculture have been achieved in Anhui's rural areas. It is necessary to seize the current opportune time and take effective and solid measures in order to push forward the rural reform to a new stage and promote a comprehensive development of the commodity economy in rural areas. The focuses of the province's rural work for this year and some time to come are to readjust the rural industrial structure, do a good job in changing the planting of grain crops to the cultivation of other crops, and speed up the use of some rural manpower for purposes other than agricultural. The general requirements are bringing the total agricultural output value of this year to reach 19 billion yuan or striving to make it reach 20 billion yuan, reducing the portion from farming from around 70 percent last year to around 65 percent, and raising the portion from forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production, and fishery from 28 percent to 35 percent.

The meeting pointed out: Problems are serious in the overstocking of grain, over-production of cotton, poor quality, and the lack of variety of some farm products, backward farm produce processing facilities, weak capability of changing the planting of grain crops to the cultivation of other crops, slow development of the tertiary industry, and failure to increase consumption and production at the same time. Therefore, readjusting the rural industrial structure, doing a good job in changing the planting of grain crops to the cultivation of other crops, and speeding up the use of some rural manpower for purposes other than agricultural has become a primary problem confronting the continued development of the rural economy. In readjusting the rural industrial structure this year on the basis of continuing to stabilize and develop grain production, it is necessary to achieve important breakthroughs in the following three major fields:

First, it is necessary to vigorously develop animal husbandry and agriculture and change the surplus grain on the spot to meat, poultry, eggs, milk, and fish. To this end, it is necessary to, first, map out plans and decide on priorities; second, vigorously develop feed industry and forage production and universally popularize mixed and compound feeds; third, develop households, major households, and villages specializing in breeding;

fourth, breed and popularize good strains, popularize the techniques of artificial insemination, breeding with frozen semen, and embryo transfer; and fifth, universally popularize the contract responsibility system of various forms on prevention and control of pestilence.

Second, it is necessary to vigorously develop village and town enterprises and remove, as quickly as possible, some rural manpower from farming to other areas. The provincial party committee and the provincial People's Government have decided that the output value of village and town enterprises this year be double that of last year, reaching 8 billion yuan this year.

Third, it is necessary to step up the construction of small towns to provide the bases for second and tertiary industries in rural areas. Emphasis should, in particular, be laid on cities' support for rural areas in developing industry.

The meeting emphatically pointed out: The central authorities have decided to reform the system of unified purchase, on fixed quotas of farm produce beginning from this year. Aside from a small number of farm products, the state will no longer set fixed quotas on purchasing farm produce from the peasants and will, in accordance with differences in cases, purchase according to contract or from the market. This practice is the second major reform in rural areas since the introduction of the contract responsibility system with remuneration linked to output. In the light of actual conditions in Anhui, readjustments are made accordingly in the purchase of the following major farm products:

1. Unified purchase of grain and cotton is abolished and purchase is to be made according to contract and price to be determined according to (?market demand).
2. The purchase of hogs and vegetables on fixed quotas is abolished and the mechanism of marketing should be brought into full play.
3. The purchase of aquatic products is abolished and replaced by free purchase and marketing.
4. The lumber market should be opened but unauthorized felling of trees is strictly forbidden.

The meeting called on various localities to further improve the logistic work for restructuring the product mix in rural areas. Party and government leaders at various levels should hold discussions with the masses, explaining to them the ongoing reform by citing different examples in order to help the masses comprehensively understand the guidelines of the central authorities' relevant documents and dispel worries from their minds. All departments concerned should provide better assistance in funding, material supply, technology, skilled personnel, transportation, energy sources, revenues, industrial and commercial administration, and judicial work in order to ensure the smooth progress of the second step in rural reform.

Addresses Closing Meeting

OW060614 Hefei Anhui Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] In his speech Comrade Huang Huang analyzed the current economic situation. He urged cadres at all levels throughout the province to have a good picture of the situation, to further emancipate their minds, to persist in reforms, to achieve a quicker rate of economic growth this year, and to strive for prominent progress in technically transforming existing enterprises, in developing village and town enter-

prises, in readjusting the rural industrial structure, in opening to the outside world, in producing consumer goods, and in developing the tertiary industry. To fulfill these five aspects of work, he stressed that leaders at all levels must earnestly improve their work style, strengthen investigations and study, and provide meticulous guidance for work.

In discussing rural work, Comrade Huang Huang pointed out emphatically: First, the relevant document of the CPC Central Committee issued this year is the continuation of its three previous documents and is an outline for our rural work in 1985. All areas should follow this outline and draw up a plan in light of local conditions for readjusting the rural industrial structure. In readjusting the rural industrial structure, all areas should, first of all, understand the importance of grain production, give it a proper place, and break away from the traditional concept of small-scale peasant economy. In accordance with the market demand, they should vigorously develop livestock breeding, grow economic crops, and set up more agriculture-industry-commerce complexes. Henceforth, the comprehensive agricultural quota and the per capita income should be made the principal criterion for assessing agricultural performance. Second, make the development of village and town enterprises an important part of the readjustment of the rural industrial structure. Household-run enterprises should be regarded a component of village and town enterprises and should be vigorously promoted. Third, monetary means should be used to promote the readjustment of the industrial structure by boldly bringing in foreign capital and exploiting domestic capital. Credits should be used as levers to stimulate economic development. Fourth, circulation should be enlivened. The principle of taking into account the initiative of the state, the collective, and the individual should be followed. Efforts should be made to develop commodity markets, and to restore and set up multilayered wholesale markets and trading centers for agricultural and sideline products.

In his speech Comrade Huang Huang also called on all areas and developments to make specific suggestions in the light of actual conditions for putting into effect the guidelines of this the provincial rural work meeting while paying attention to the following tasks: First, it is necessary to pay attention to work at the grassroots units. Second, it is necessary to improve the efficiency of checking and supervising work in various fields. Third, in the course of carrying out reforms, it is necessary to stop such bad tendencies as the undertaking of business operations by party and government organs, arbitrary raising of prices and giving out bonuses, organizing feasts, and distributing gifts in violation of regulations. Fourth, it is necessary to improve the work of opening to the outside world and invigorating the domestic economy. Fifth, it is necessary to do a good job in party rectification by adhering to high-level quality and standards. Under no circumstances should perfunctoriness be permitted in party rectification.

In talking about how to invigorate the economy, Comrade Huang Huang said:

This year, the province has decided to designate 20 additional counties to carry out a comprehensive structural reform on a trial basis and to expand the decisionmaking power of these counties. He called on these counties to draw up a specific plan for carrying out the reform. He also urged other counties which are not carrying out experiments on structural reform to start with this reform and strive to invigorate the economy.

FUJIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION ON RURAL REFORM

OW060636 Fuzhou Fujian Provincial Service in Mandarin 1130 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] While delivering a report on the progress of the reform in Fujian's commercial structure in both urban and rural areas and on suggestions for future work to the provincial People's Congress Standing Committee on 5 February, (Zhang Hua), vice chairman of the provincial Economic Commission, said: In order to successfully reform our province's commercial structure, it has been decided to continue to pursue flexible policies to enliven purchasing and marketing this year.

(Zhang Hua) said: Except for cured tobacco, the state monopoly on the purchase of other agricultural products under the operation of the food, commercial, and supply and marketing departments will be abolished and replaced by contracted purchasing and market purchasing. All areas should expand their grain markets and allow the masses to freely deal in grain crops. Planned purchase by the state of edible oils will be abolished and replaced by contracted purchasing. Their prices will be determined by market demand, while the state's planned marketing prices will remain unchanged. Planned purchasing by the state of vegetables in large and medium-sized cities and in principled industrial and mining areas will be gradually abolished. After the abolition of this practice, the method of linking supply with vegetable farms will be adopted so as to determine the acreage devoted to vegetable growing.

(Zhang Hua) pointed out: After the abolition of the practice of planned purchase by the state, agricultural and sideline products will no longer be subject to the restrictions imposed by the original system of division of operation. They will be directly circulated through numerous channels. This is a drastic change. State-run commercial enterprises should adapt to this change, actively take part in regulations of the market, and do a good job in purchasing agricultural and sideline products by actively taking part in contracted purchasing and market purchasing.

SHANGHAI MEETING DISCUSSES URBAN ECONOMIC REFORM

OW060827 Shanghai City Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 5 Feb 85

[Text] Speaking at yesterday's meeting on reforming Shanghai's urban economic structure, Huang Ju, member of the Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal CPC Committee, said: Shanghai has already mapped out the strategy for its economic and social development. One important way of achieving the strategic objective is to make policy readjustment and carry out institutional reform.

Huang Ju said: This year is the first year for Shanghai to achieve a strategic change in its economic development. Shanghai's economic reform this year will center on further invigorating Shanghai's enterprises. Its system of commodity circulation will also be reformed. State enterprises must actively carry out reform in other areas, particularly in these three areas: Streamlining the administration and delegating more authority to lower departments; instituting a system under which the total amount of wages will float in accordance with economic performance; and instituting a system under which directors or managers will be held responsible for the operation of their enterprises. Communications, construction, commercial, and service trades should also carry out reforms in accordance with this principle. Collectively owned enterprises should be operated in a more lively manner.

Huang Ju added: Reform of the system of commodity circulation must be accelerated. Departments in charge of internal trade, foreign trade, and commodity supply must also adopt major reform measures. The wage system must also be reformed positively and reliably according to different situations. In a well-guided manner, the functions and scope of authority of various departments under the municipal government should also be readjusted.

The current forum on reforming the urban economic structure opened yesterday at the Shanghai Institute of Financial and Economic Affairs. Ruan Chongwu, secretary of the Shanghai Municipal CPC Committee and vice mayor of Shanghai, and others attended the meeting, during which more than 300 experts, scholars, managers, and factory directors put forward ways and means for Shanghai's overall reform.

SHENZHEN CUSTOMS OFFICERS INVESTIGATE SMUGGLING

HK050343 Beijing CHINA DAILY in English 5 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] China's border customs between Kowloon and Shenzhen uncovered more than 4,000 smuggling cases last year, the Shenzhen Special Zone daily reports. The value of contraband seized by customs officers is estimated at 19 million yuan (6.8 million). Most of the smugglers were identified by written information from Hong Kong and Macao sent to customs officers. Awards given to the customs officers involved in the seizures totalled 200,000 yuan.

HENAN CPC ON ADMITTING INTELLECTUALS, YOUTHS

HK010631 Zhengzhou Henan Provincial Service in Mandarin 1030 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A forum held by the provincial CPC Committee on admitting people into the party ended on 28 January in Xuchang.

Provincial CPC Committee Deputy Secretary Zhao Di delivered a speech on the problem of intellectuals having difficulties in joining the party.

Comrade Zhao Di pointed out that the province has made fairly rapid progress in admitting intellectuals into the party over the past few years. The achievements have been remarkable. The main problems in our current work of admitting outstanding intellectuals into the party are: Some comrades are unrealistically optimistic and relax their efforts to admit intellectuals into the party; the leftist influence has not yet been thoroughly eliminated; and the prejudice against intellectuals has not yet been rectified. Some other comrades fail to conscientiously and urgently admit intellectuals into the party. The development of the work is uneven in the province. In some backward units and dead corners, the problem of admitting intellectuals into the party has not yet been resolved thoroughly. Very few university students and secondary technical school students have been admitted to the party in recent years.

Comrade Zhao Di pointed out that party organizations at all levels must effectively strengthen their leadership, do their best to thoroughly resolve in the next 2 years the problem of intellectuals feeling that it is difficult to join the party. We must fully understand the importance and urgency of admitting a great number of intellectuals into the party. Achieving the four modernizations is the greatest political task of the new period. The principal political criteria for admitting a new party member is whether he is fighting for the fulfillment of the four modernizations and whether he is ready to sacrifice his life for the people's happiness.

Comrade Zhao Di also said: While resolving the problem of intellectuals having difficulties in joining the party, all localities must pay attention to admitting advanced youths into the party. Attention should also be paid to admitting graduate students, college students, and secondary technical school students into the party. This is a prime issue concerning speeding up the four modernizations and carrying on our party's cause, which is of great importance to changing cultural level and age of party members.

(Wang Chuanzhen), deputy director of the Organization Department of the provincial CPC Committee, and responsible comrades of the Xuchang Prefectural CPC Committee attended the forum.

INFANTRY RESERVE DIVISION ESTABLISHED IN BEIJING

HK041020 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 2 Feb 85 p 4

[Report by Wang Ziyang: "Military Reserve Service 2d Division Formed in Beijing"]

[Text] The Beijing Infantry Reserve Service 2d Division was officially established in the capital on 1 February. Over 1,000 cadres of the infantry reserve service at the platoon level or above from Beijing's suburban counties of Fangshan, Daxing, Changping, and Yanqing attended the inaugural meeting.

Attending the meeting to extend their congratulations were Tan Jingqiao, assistant to the chief of staff of the PLA General Staff Headquarters; Song Yingqi, director of the Mass Work Department of the PLA General Political Department; Wu Dai, adviser to the Beijing Military Region; Li Ximing, secretary of the Beijing Municipal CPC Committee and first political commissar of the PLA Beijing Garrison; Li Zhongxuan, commander of the PLA Beijing Garrison; Xu Zhifen, political commissar of the PLA Beijing Garrison, and other leading comrades.

BU ON RESTRUCTURING NEI MONGGOL RURAL INDUSTRIES

SK030553 Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Bu He, chairman of the autonomous region, went to rural and pastoral areas of Bayannur League to conduct investigations and research and to give work guidance from 12 January to 2 February. He made some suggestions on restructuring of the industry in rural and pastoral areas.

After visiting households specialized in various kinds of production in rural and pastoral areas, Comrade Bu He said: Conditions for rural and pastoral areas to restructure their industries are ripe now. The restructuring, which aims at meeting the needs in expanding the regulatory role of the market and better developing the excellent situation in commodity production in rural and pastoral areas, calls on us to further reform the rural and pastoral economic management system in a comprehensive way, relax restrictions and enliven all fields of production, and create favorable conditions for restructuring industries.

Comrade Bu He said: As township enterprises in our region are underdeveloped, we should pay close attention to the great development of township enterprises and service trades in rural and pastoral areas in our endeavor to restructure rural and pastoral industries, make the best use of the advantages and resources of all localities, develop farming, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries in a coordinative manner, and establish a final cycle of production.

Comrade Bu He also emphasized: In restructuring industries, we should attach importance to economic information, and should make arrangements for reform and production in line with market demands instead of rushing headlong into mass action in order to avoid dislocation of production, supply and marketing. In restructuring rural and pastoral industries, we should also develop construction of cities and towns, and enable the reform of rural and pastoral economic structure to promote reform of the urban economy. Catering to the needs in commodity production, many peasants are entering market towns to engage in various processing industries, and commercial and service trades. Rough and fine processing of farm and animal products will not only double or even redouble our output value but also satisfy market demands. Market towns in remote pastoral areas may also conduct business of native and animal products with neighboring countries so as to further enliven the commodity economy.

HEILONGJIANG ON DEVELOPING TOWN-RUN ENTERPRISES

SK051448 Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Excerpts] According to news reports from our station reporters covering the provincial telephone conference to discuss the work of developing township- and town-owned enterprises, held on 4 February, our province will adopt the strategy of [words indistinct] to continuously relax policy restrictions concerning township- and town-owned enterprises in order to advance the development of these enterprises.

In 1985, our province plans to score an increase of 30 percent over the figure for 1984 in the total output value of these enterprises, and to realize 3.1 billion yuan. Our province also plans to enable a number of cities, counties, townships, villages, and enterprises to double their total output value within a year. Meanwhile, the province will ensure that simultaneous progress in developing these enterprises throughout the province and in increasing economic returns can be achieved.

At the conference, Wang Lianzheng, vice governor of the province, delivered a speech, in which he stated: The leadership and working personnel at all levels should further understand that township- and town-owned enterprises constitute the market economy under the guidance of the state plans. These enterprises should chiefly engage in their production under the principle of regulating markets. All individuals are allowed to open an enterprise if they wish as long as their products are needed by markets and they can obtain raw materials and achieve economic results. No departments are allowed to interfere with their business and impose restrictions on them. The industrial and commercial departments should relax their restrictions on approving the opening of enterprises and simplify the procedure of applying to open a business. We should not impose restrictions of product standard and category on enterprises that can be opened in rural villages. These enterprises should be allowed to open comprehensive markets related to their products in large and medium-sized cities. We should try our best to make things convenient for these enterprises in terms of selling their products and purchasing raw materials.

In his speech, Vice Governor Wang Lianzheng also stated: Various localities should further relax policy restrictions concerning tax revenues.

In his speech, Vice Governor Wang Lianzheng also urged the township- and town-owned enterprises at all levels to conduct reforms in responsibility systems before the Spring Festival. Cadres in charge of developing these enterprises who have not succeeded in conducting reforms will be dismissed from their posts immediately.

In concluding his speech, Vice Governor Wang Lianzheng pointed out: At present, a new situation in which localities across the country are vying with each other to establish these enterprises has taken shape. The provincial CPC Committee and the provincial People's Government call on the party committees and governments at all levels to clearly discern the situation, to double their efforts, and to do a good job in their work in order to fulfill various targets set forth by the province for developing these enterprises in 1985 and to make new contributions to accelerating the pace of doubling the rural economy.

GANSU LEADER STRESSES PHYSICAL CULTURE WORK

HK030246 Lanzhou Gansu Provincial Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Excerpts] A provincial physical culture and sports work conference concluded in Lanzhou on 2 February after 6 days in session. Provincial CPC Committee Secretary Li Ziqi made an important speech at the meeting, putting forward the following issues:

- 1) Party committees and government at all levels must attach importance to physical culture and put it on their agenda.
- 2) Launch mass physical culture activities on an extensive scale.
- 3) Establish a high-quality sports contingent.
- 4) It is necessary to have specialized physical culture personnel with a strong sense of the cause.
- 5) We should strive to rejuvenate Gansu's physical culture work within 3 years and bring it up to a medium national level.

XINJIANG'S WANG SUMS UP 1984, PLANS FOR 1985

HK051324 Urumqi Xinjiang Regional Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] The fourth enlarged plenary session of the Third Regional CPC Committee opened in Urumqi today. At the session, on behalf of the regional CPC Committee, Wang Enmao, first secretary of the regional CPC Committee, made a report on the summing up of work in 1984 and on arrangements for work in 1985.

Wang Enmao's report is divided into two parts. The first part of the report sums up work in 1984 in an all-round manner. Comrade Wang Enmao said: In 1984 the region made a new development of its economic construction, completely fulfilled or overfulfilled all main quotas, developed party rectification work healthily, and achieved marked results. The region basically completed the work of reforming organs, providing leadership groups, and scored certain achievements in building the third echelon. The building of socialist spiritual civilization and scientific, cultural, and education work was further developed and the general mood of society further improved. The struggle against serious crimes and serious economic crimes penetratingly developed. Social order in the urban and rural areas markedly improved. The unity of the nationalities was further strengthened.

The second part of the report puts forward six main tasks for the region in this year:

- 1) Strengthening economic construction and completely overfulfilling the quotas for the national economy and social development for 1985;
- 2) seriously grasping well reform of the economic structure with the focus on the urban economy;
- 3) continuously strengthening the building of socialist spiritual civilization and vigorously developing scientific, cultural, and educational work;
- 4) further strengthening political and legal work and protecting and promoting the smooth progress of reform of the economic structure and economic construction;
- 5) further strengthening the unity of the nationalities and consolidating and developing the excellent situation in the unity of nationalities;
- and 6) continuing to do a good job in all-round party rectification.

Attending this session are members and alternate members of the regional CPC Committee, members of the regional Advisory Committee, and members of the regional Discipline Inspection Committee. Responsible comrades of all prefectures, autonomous prefectures, cities, the Production and Construction Corps, and departments concerned of the region are attending the session as nonvoting delegates.

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5